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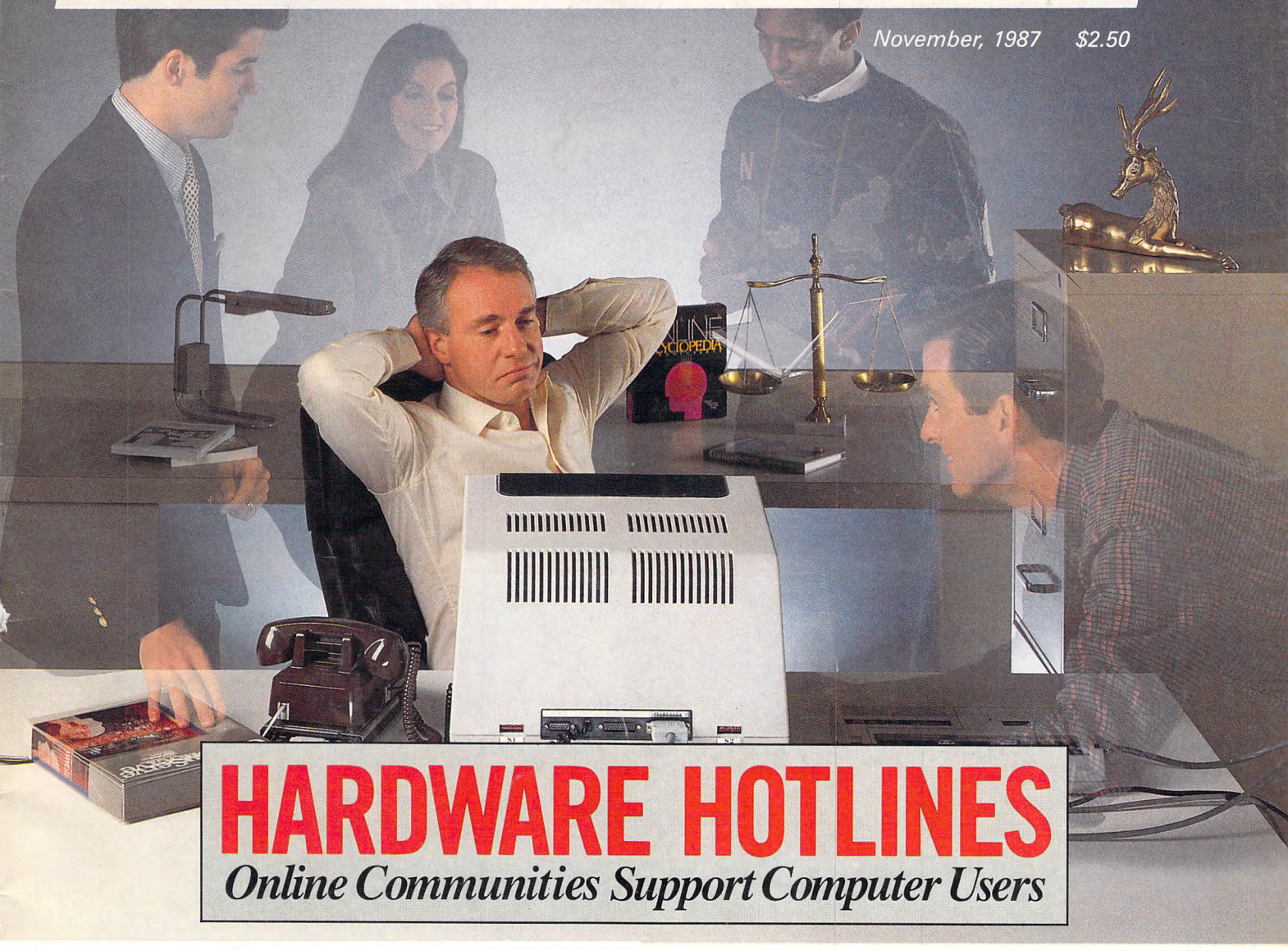
ONLINE TODAY

THE COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE

November, 1987 $2.50



HARDWARE HOTLINES

Online Communities Support Computer Users

EXCITING
HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING SUGGESTIONS ARE
FEATURED IN GO MALL. PAGES 33 THRU
48. AND IN OUR FINGER SHOPPING SALE
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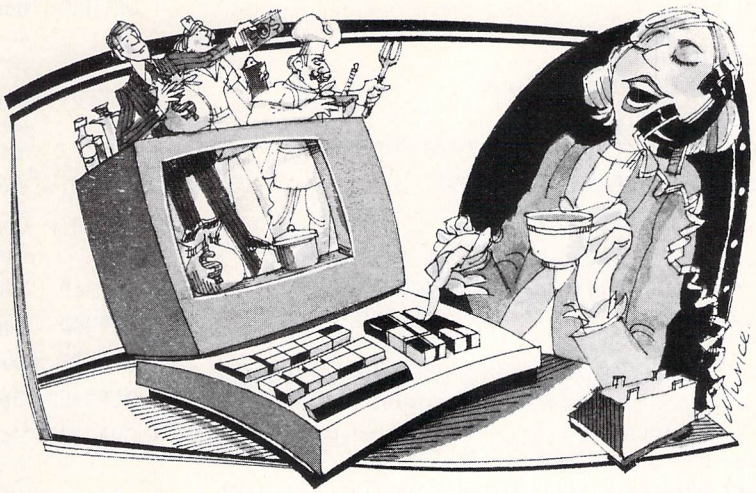

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markets of any size or shape. Or counties, ADI's, states, you name it. I can analyze one site or compare a thousand.

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ELECTRONIC EDITION

Online Today Electronic Edition provides daily-updated computer and information industry news, coverage of CompuServe services, commentary, computer product reviews and more.

GO OLT **A GO-Page Directory** *of the day's top computer industry news and a summary of key OLT page numbers.*

OLT-160 **The Monitor Daily News** *main menu.*

OLT-90 **Today's Computer and Information Industry News.**

OLT-20 **The Current Week's Monitor News.**

OLT-130 **Behind the Screens.** *Computer and information industry news, rumor and gossip.*

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OLT-1000 **Computer Events Calendar.**

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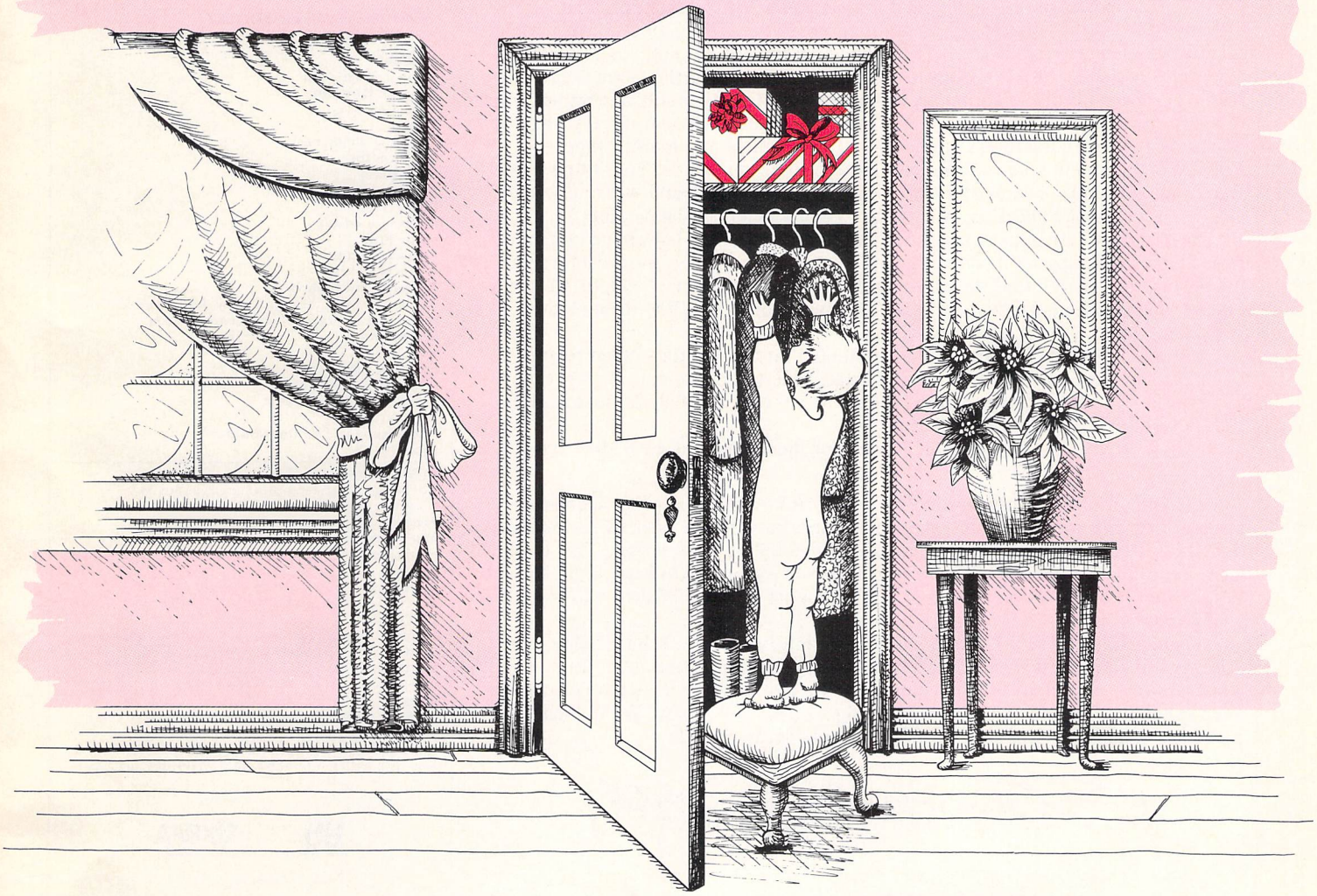
EBB-11 **Instructions** *on use of the Electronic Bounce Back reader service system.*

EBB-160 **Online Today Display Ads** *main menu.*

EBB-70 **Shopper's Guide.**

FOR THOSE WHO JUST CAN'T WAIT...



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DEAR READER

"Help. I have a 1979 Globe. Need parts, information. Anyone out there?"

In most places, seeking information on the Globe — an early model computer made in the 1970s — would be like looking for truffles on the underside rings of Saturn. At best, you'll get references for several good cartographers. From fellow computerists you'll more likely get one of those pitying, oh-you-bought-an-Edsel glances ("... is that the computer that looks like an IBM sucking on a lemon?").

But wait. There *is* someplace to get help with your 1979 Globe: a place where nobody will laugh or crack jokes (well, maybe a few jokes), and where you may even find — gasp! — fellow Globe users. It's a place called the Computer Club, and it's a computer users forum on CompuServe. More than 4,000 members, most of whom own so-called "orphan" machines no longer made and usually abandoned by their manufacturers, gather here for technical and moral support. They're independent sorts and fiercely loyal to their machines. You'll find that Eagles still fly and Timexes still tick in the Computer Club; and where else can you find owners of SuperElfs, Microaces, Adams, Victors and Vectors?

The "orphan" machines are not the only nuclei of extended online communities. Substantial support forums are in place for all the major, most-established models as well. You'll find the entire orchard of Apple varieties supported in several forums and well-established special interest groups for IBM, Commodore, Atari and more.

Find out all about "Computer Communities" in this month's cover feature beginning on page 14. Whether you have an Apple or an Apricot, or yes, even a 1979 Globe, you'll find information on how to tap into the bulletin boards, data libraries and conference camaraderie.

Now, if we can just get a forum started for those who still own slide rules ...

* * *

Speaking of online product support, you'll find Apple Computer second to none in that category. CompuServe Apple users have talked directly to the president and attended stockholders' meetings in live online conferences. President and CEO John Sculley checks his EasyPlex mail every morning to keep in touch with his customers and says he's amazed at the rapport he's established with many loyal Apple users.

This month we have a major portion of an interview with John Sculley that appeared in last month's special *Online Today* insert for Apple users. In it, Sculley discusses his views about online support and novel ways he uses the network to keep in touch with customers and even other Apple colleagues. We're pleased to present it to all OLT readers this month beginning on page 22.

Douglas Branstetter
Editor

ONLINE TODAY

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Volume 6 Number 11

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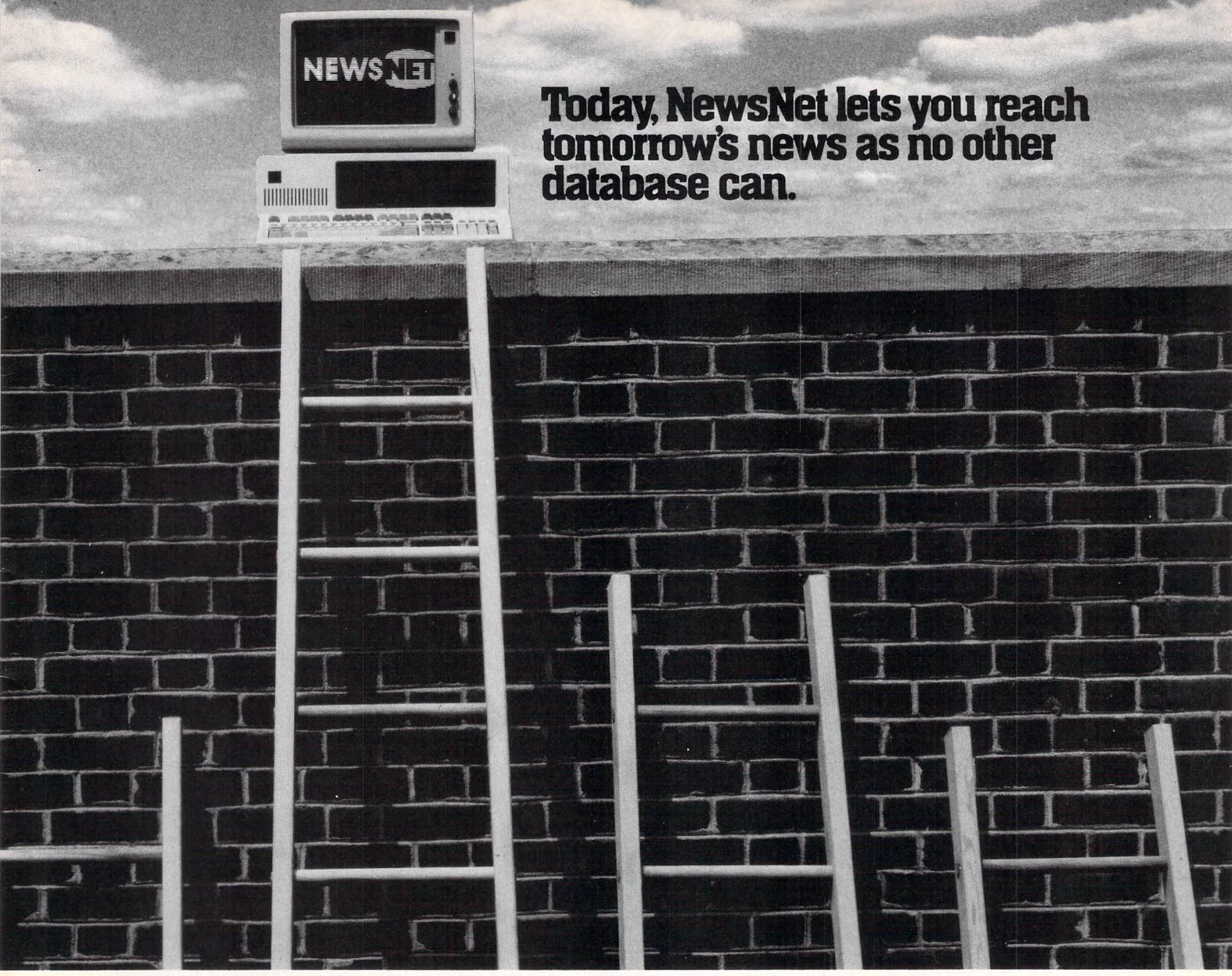

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LETTERS

Maintaining Security

After reading the article about maintaining security (September issue, page 10), I was glad I chose to have a separate credit card for use with CompuServe. This way, no one can get a carbon copy of my number and I can set a spending limit for myself. If the bill ends up being for more than I think I spent, I can easily check it out.

Callan Kelly
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Ticker Input File

Thanks for the great article on creating and using the ticker input file (September issue, page 47). I tried it and it works.

Please write more articles on how to use CompuServe.

Roger J. Milstein
Olympia, Wash.

Electronic University Network

I have been noticing your advertisements for the Electronic University Network. Since I did not want to start a project that I couldn't finish, I held back the urge to enroll. I was waiting for financial stability on my part and an assurance that the Electronic University Network would be permanent.

On the first day of September, I received that assurance: an article about the Electronic University Network in *Online Today*. After reading the article, I was eager to enroll in a course.

When I called CompuServe, however, I received a notice that the Electronic University Network is no longer available. I really don't understand why you would run an article on a program that is defunct and why you don't give any guidance online as to how a person can reach the Electronic University for more information.

William A. Smith
Philadelphia, Pa.

Editor's Note: The Electronic University Network was a product of Telelearning Incorporated. Telelearning's ownership of EUN was recently sold to Compulearning. For a variety of business reasons, CompuServe has chosen not to pursue this relationship.

For more details on Compulearning, write to Compulearning Inc., 1150 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111. The toll-free number for calls within California is 800/631-6699; for calls outside California, the number is 800/225-3276.

Coverage of Wozniak

I am writing in response to Benn Kobb's letter (September issue) in which he discourages irrelevant discussion of Steve Wozniak's private life. If Wozniak were an average citizen, the news item about his private life may not be relevant. However, Wozniak is one of the founding fathers of the personal computer and, as such, *any* copy concerning his activities is at least as relevant and interesting as other stories reported in *Online Today* and other computer publications.

W.E. Fells
North Lauderdale, Fla.

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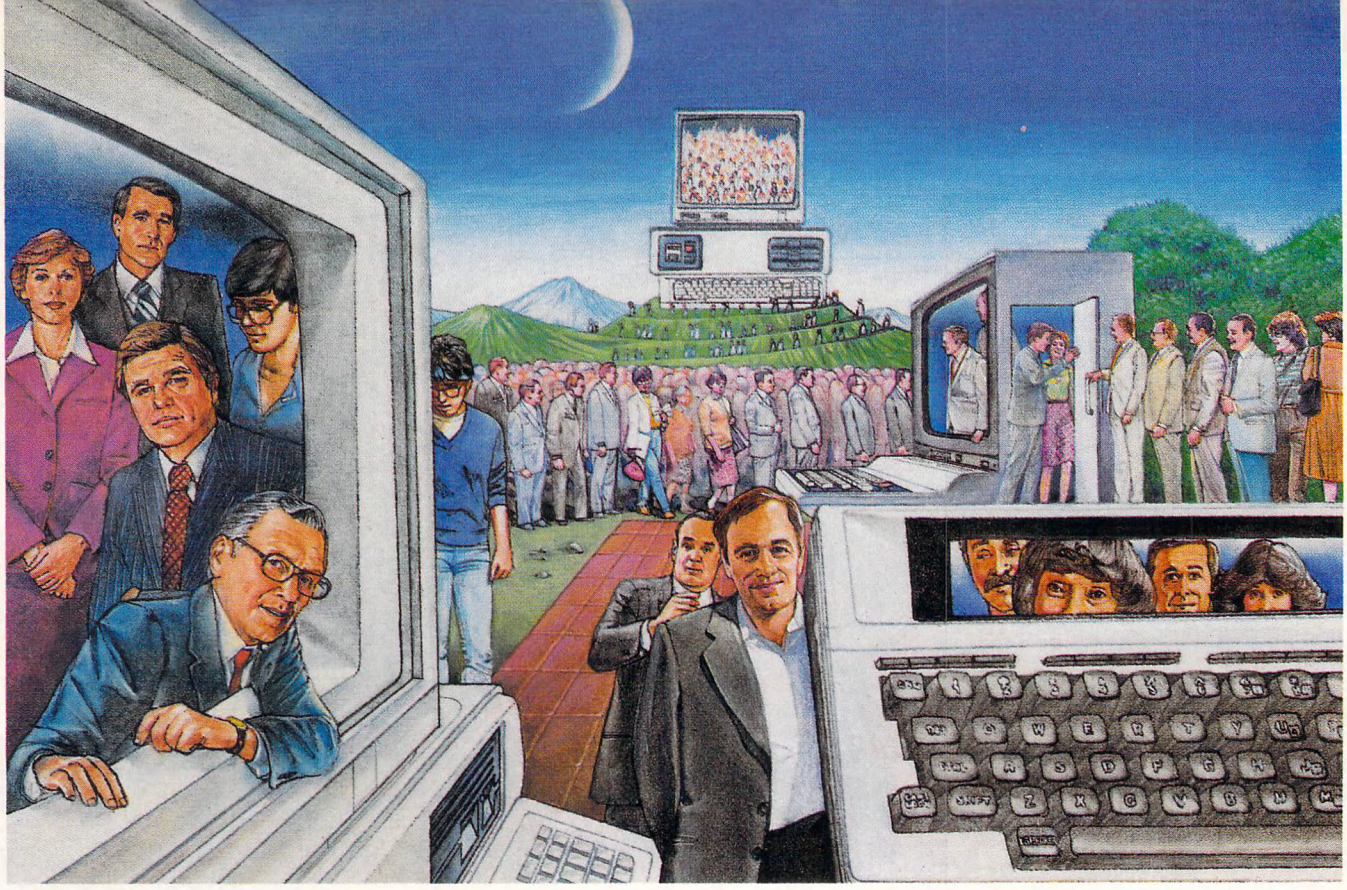

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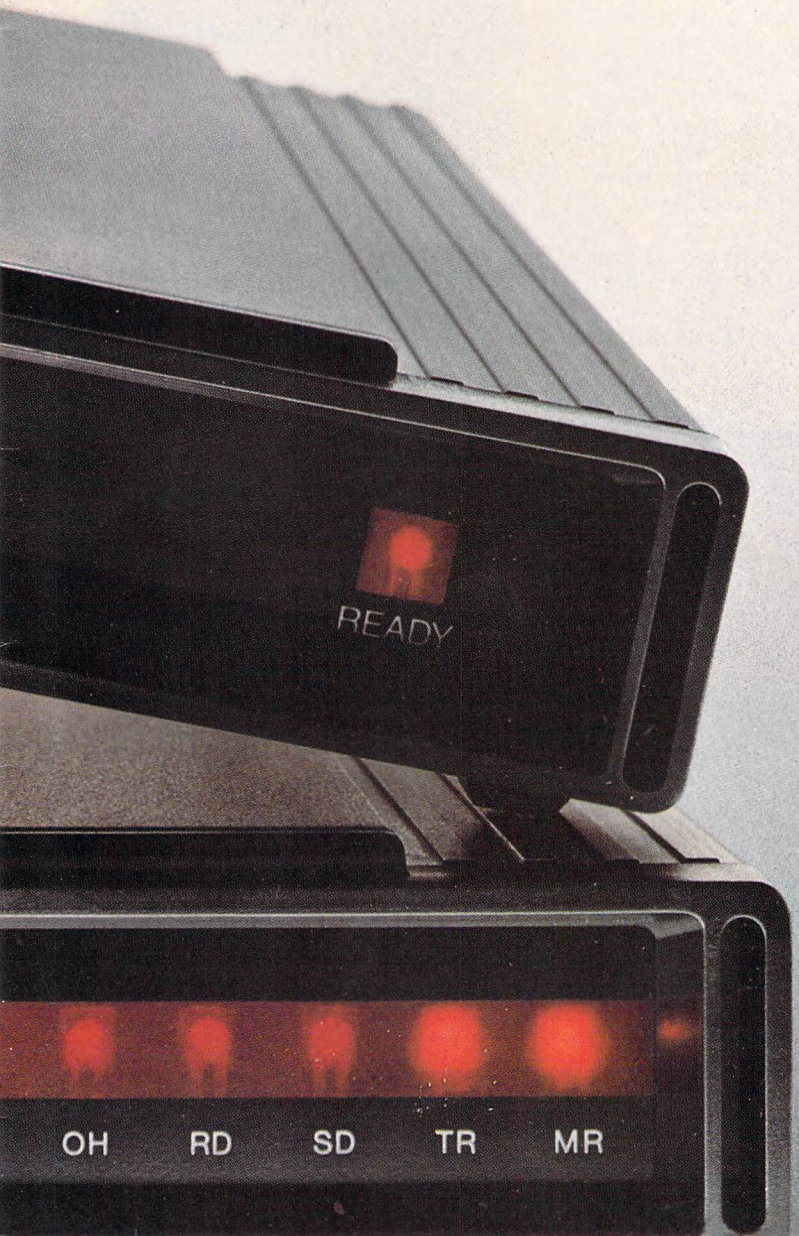

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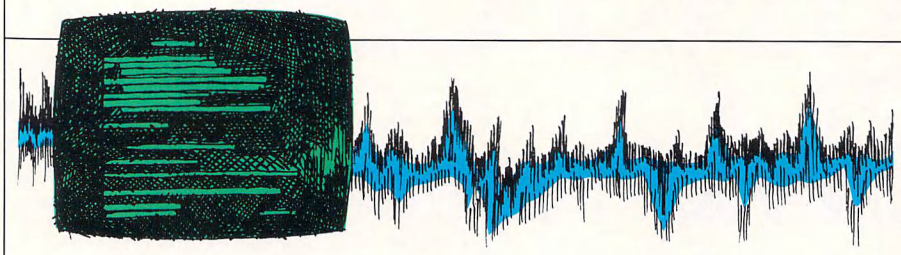

King Associates

Worst Connection Wins Contest

You think *your* phone line is bad at times! Talk to the guy in California who picks up Dr. Ruth and baseball game broadcasts when he is trying to use his modem. Or the research firm in New York City that can't use its modems on windy days because of the horrible line conditions those gusts create.

Then there is the man who gets kicked offline whenever the compressor of his refrigerator kicks in. One Washington state resident who owns eight home computers doesn't dare try using a modem with his phone line—periodically, the telephone company has to jack up the power for him just to be able to hear the telephone ring.

These horror tales (and about 300 more) were compiled as part of a contest sponsored by modem manufacturer Bizcomp Corp. The Sunnyvale, Calif.-based firm has recently introduced the IntelliModem 2400, which it asserts will function over any phone line. To back up that claim, Bizcomp went looking for the worst phone line in America.

The "winning" line is in Southern California, according to Phil Sacino, Bizcomp vice president, and is attached to a bulletin board system that is barely able to operate because of the garbage that usually appears on the screen when it is connected to a first-generation 2400-baud modem. Sacino says that the IntelliModem works fine, however, although the company plans further testing.

The IntelliModem 2400 is based on a new design called adaptive echo cancelling technology, which helps the modem work more efficiently when the signals are too strong or the lines are too poor for reliable communications. It also is immune to the session-killing effect of call-waiting interruptions. The retail price of the PC-internal modem and the rack-mounting card version is $599.

For information, contact Bizcomp Corp., 532 Mercury Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; 408/733-7800.

—Cathryn Conroy

New Transistor Radically Different

Q: What can handle heavy power loads and detect light with extreme sensitivity?

A: A new type of transistor.

According to GTE Corp., which unveiled the as yet unnamed device earlier this year, the transistor could revolutionize the technology used to transmit data, pictures and voices over fiber optic cables. That is the good news. The bad news is that the transistor is not well-suited for inclusion in integrated circuits.

In any case, GTE is predicting a big future for the transistor, which is "radically different" from conventional transistors that consist of silicon wafers with metal connections etched onto their surfaces.

To create the transistor, GTE researchers mixed quantities of silicon and metal. The mixture, when combined in a proprietary process, results in coin-shaped devices with microscopic metal rods running vertically through their thicknesses. According to GTE, the rods form naturally when the metal separates from the silicon as the mixture "grows" into a sausage-like shape. The sausage is then sliced into wafers, and several transistors can be stamped out of each wafer, cookie cutter-style.

One of the transistor's major benefits is that it is extremely easy to manufacture—connections are formed inside the material during its growth, lessening the danger of contamination. GTE claims that this should reduce the cost of fiber optic equipment and make the technology more popular.

Incidentally, GTE has more than a passing interest in the new device; the company is half-owner of long-distance carrier US Sprint, which relies heavily on fiber optic transmission.

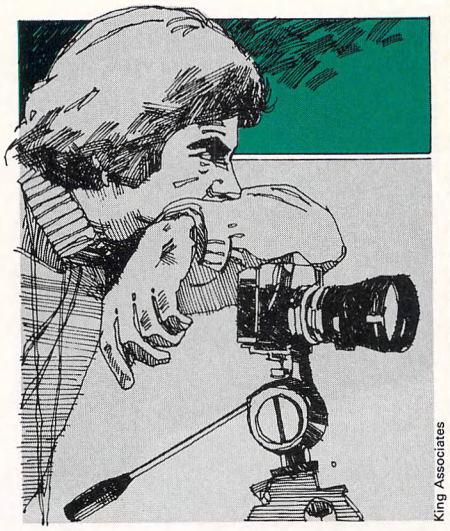
More details are available from GTE Laboratories at 617/890-8460.

—John Edwards

Photo Forum Shares Data

No doubt you've heard of shareware—that form of software distribution in which you can try out the program first and pay for it only if you like it. Now CompuServe's Photography Forum (GO PHOTOFORUM) has developed SHAREDATA, thanks to forum member Max Lent.

The data available in the forum under this unique program—it may be the first of its kind—is nearly all of the photography exhibition spaces in the United States. Using this database and the forum's word processing software, photographers can print directories,


King Associates

labels and individualized letters.

Compiled by Max Lent of Rochester, N.Y.-based Max Lent Productions, the database is an outgrowth of a mailing list he began compiling in 1978 as a service to the fine-art photography community. He has sold the data to fine-art photographers, galleries, book publishers and advertising agencies in the form of self-stick labels.

The file available in the Photography Forum is found in Data Library 8 with the filename PHOTO.ARC and a donation of $25 is requested.

The data is supplied in mail-merge format with each field of information (such as gallery name or address) delimited by a comma. Each complete record (gallery name, address and ZIP code) is delimited by a carriage return.

For more information, contact Max Lent in the Photography Forum at 72145,125 or write Max Lent Productions, P.O. Box 11442, Rochester, NY 14611.

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** Supplemental network communications surcharges still apply. ** For price policy and billing information, see Terms and Conditions when you sign on. *** To ensure uninterrupted service, your membership will be automatically renewed after the first 6 months for a full year at only $25.*

OPEN HOUSE

Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1987.
Midnight to midnight EST.

Friday, November 27, 1987.
Midnight to 6:00 p.m. EST.

Directions:

1. Sign on to CompuServe.
2. Enter GO CUS at the main menu or at any other location in CompuServe.

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ONLSA114

GO OLI or circle 10 on the Reader Service Form.

CompuServe offers you the guidance you need for file downloading.

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CompuServe®

Information Services

Turbo Technix Offers Programming Tips

Programmers working with Borland International's Turbo languages will find a new source of information in *Turbo Technix*, a bi-monthly, 192-page magazine offering graphics and programming tips for all levels of programmers.

Philippe Kahn, president of Borland, describes his company's first venture into magazine publishing as "an application magazine."

The publication's purpose is to disclose the "culture" behind programming languages, much like the culture behind a spoken language.

"The reference manual can go only so far. It can define the language's syntax in very precise terms, but it can only touch upon the much larger issues of how the elements of the language can be arranged into the complex structures necessary to build a successful software product. The culture of a computer language consists of those larger issues," says Kahn.

Each issue will feature at least three articles on each of the four Borland programming languages: Turbo Basic, Turbo Prolog, Turbo C and Turbo Pascal. The articles will be directed to novice programmers, intermediate programmers and wizards. "Readers should have a rough indication of how difficult the material will be before they begin reading," says Editor Jeff Duntemann, who is the author of two Turbo Pascal books.

The articles will be written by experts in the various languages, according to Publisher Marcia Blake, who adds that the magazine will not readily become dated. "A novice programmer will find that a year or two from now he or she will be able to pick up the first issues and find all new information in the wizard level articles," she says.

Upcoming editorial topics include interfacing Turbo C and Turbo Prolog, coding for residency, data management, Turbo data communications and assembly language interface.

Turbo Technix will be mailed free of charge to anyone who returns a license agreement to Borland for one of these software products.

For information, contact Borland International Inc., 4585 Scotts Valley Dr., Scotts Valley, CA 95066; 408/438-8400.

—Cathryn Conroy

US Doctorates Down in Science Fields

In 1986, the number of new engineering doctorates awarded to US citizens continued to rebound from a 1983 low, but a trend toward fewer new science doctorates persisted, reports a National Science Foundation study.

A decline from the peak years of the early 1970s in new science and engineering doctorates awarded to US students contrasts with continued gains made by foreign students, notes the report.

Data collected by the NSF from all science and engineering fields reveals that since 1980 the number of doctorates awarded yearly to foreign citizens has risen 40 percent while the number awarded to US citizens has decreased nearly 5 percent.

In 1986, foreign citizens received 29 percent of the 18,800 science and engineering doctorates earned, including 55 percent of the 3,400 engineering doctorates (up from 48 percent in 1980) and 23 percent of the 15,400 science doctorates (up from 17 percent in 1980).

The number of all science and engineering doctorates awarded by US universities rose 3 percent from 1985 to 1986, but this overall increase was due entirely to advances made by foreign students, notes the NSF. The decline in the number of science and engineering doctorates awarded to US citizens continued in 1986 despite increases in the number of science and engineering doctorates earned by US women and Hispanics. These advances were not sufficient to offset a decrease in the number of science doctorates earned by men and a decline in science and engineering doctorates earned by blacks.

For more information on the report, titled *Survey of Earned Doctorates*, contact the National Science Foundation, 1800 G St., Washington, DC 20550; 202/357-9498.

—John Edwards

Golf Styles Studied

Fine-tuning golfing skills now can be done anytime, any season. A new computer program helps golfers—novices to professionals—beat the opposition by using psychology.

SportsPsych Inc. has introduced "Golfing Style Analysis," which allows a golfer to identify personality characteristics and how these traits impact performance.

"The program is designed to let golfers learn more about themselves and their tendencies as players and, as a result, improve their games," according to Joseph R. Lapointe, president of SportsPsych. He adds that it will be especially useful to golf instructors, who can detect tendencies in students' games based on their personality traits.

Golfing styles are analyzed through responses to 24 questions designed to identify traits of personality. A printout is then developed to evaluate the individual golfer in detail and give specific recommendations for improving the player's mental approach to the game.

Although Lapointe admitted many may want to use the program just for fun, the Professional Golfer's Association is evaluating the program for use by its professional members.

For information, contact SportsPsych Inc., 810 12th St., N.W., Mason City, IA 50401. 515/423-6288.

Library Books in Limbo

The New York Public Library is missing a few thousand books.

Actually, the books didn't vanish into thin air—the venerable Fifth Ave. institution's new computer system sort of "swallowed" their call numbers. So while the tomes may still be in the library's stacks, readers and administrators have no way of locating them.

All of this came about when the library's resident computer experts transferred the books' numbers from one computer to another. "The call numbers just vanished," a library worker told *Online Today*.

The exact number of missing books is a mystery, with some library employees estimating the number as high as 10,000.

But Paul Peters, the library's systems coordinator, claims the actual figure is closer to 5,000 books. "We're not too worried," he said. "We've been locating the volumes as we do other work. If we can get the funding, we will launch a special project to collect the rest. In any event, we're confident we will eventually be able to locate all of them."

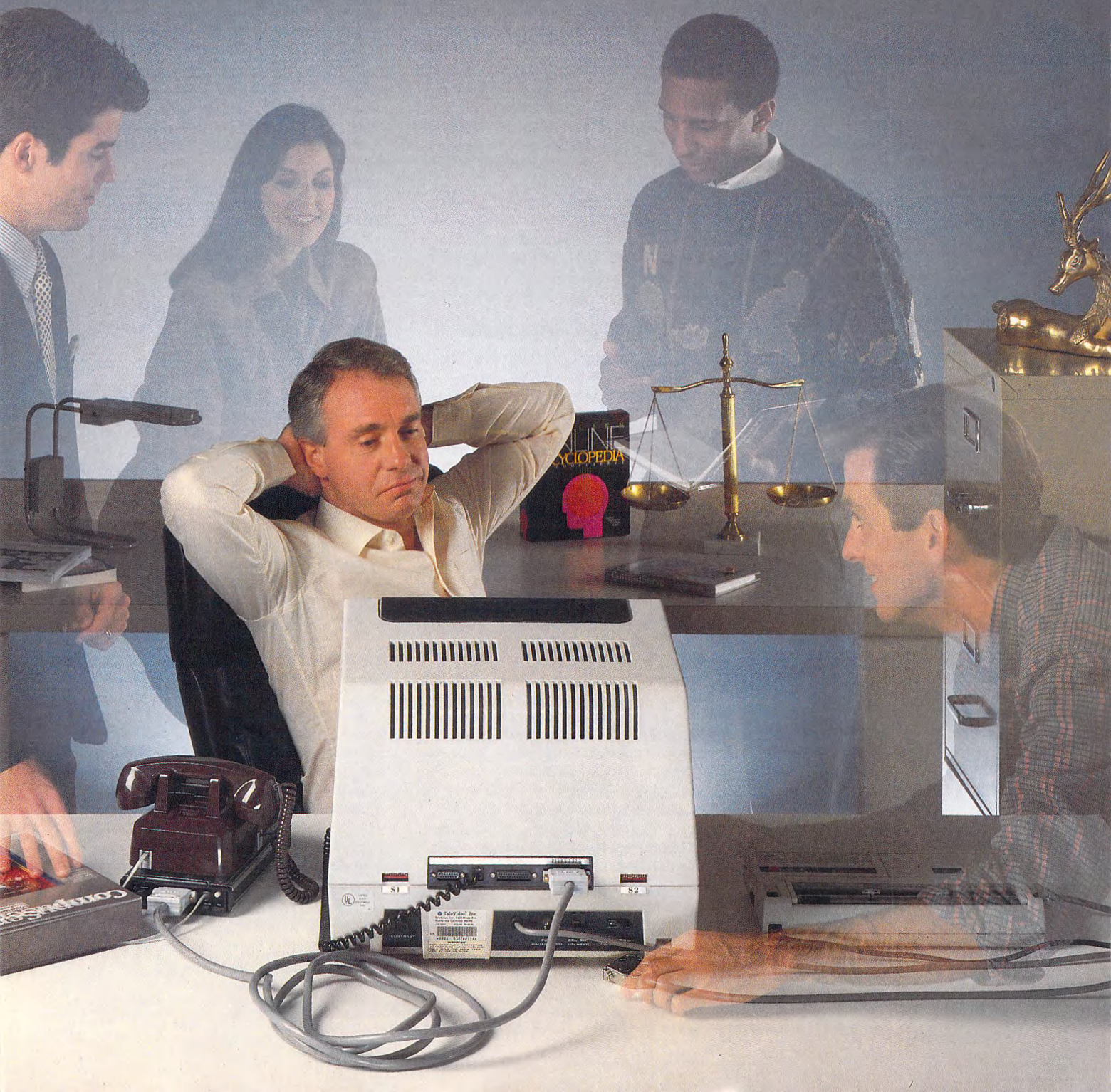
The question is: will the library fine the computer for the volumes?

HARDWARE HOTLINES

Online Communities Support Computer Users

by Holly G. Miller

There's something exciting about taking a new computer out of its box, unpacking the manuals and cables, and getting it connected. But for computer users who access CompuServe, there's a lot more in "the package." Whether they have the latest top-of-the-line model or a computer that is no longer being manufactured, they can find an online community of fellow computer users in the forums. Instead of staring at a blank screen, they can ask questions about uploading and downloading, participate in conferences with experts, learn more about their computers and make friends in the process.



Bert Happel didn't know Adams from Apples back in May 1983 when he went shopping for an office computer in Indianapolis. His lone programming experience had been as a fourth-year optometry student when he and a classmate had collaborated on a senior project and devised an eye exercise for use on an Apple II. Instead of manually flashing little cards in front of a patient, he programmed the video screen to display the cards and told the patient to interact with the keyboard. Pretty slick. And simple.

So there he was in '83—an O.D. after his name, ready to open a private practice—making the rounds of retailers, poking through countless computer catalogs, being bombarded by sales pitches and enduring endless demonstrations. He learned from the process. He eventually drove a hard bargain, played three dealers against each other and emerged with a top-of-the-line machine: a Victor 9000. Pricetag? $7,500, give or take a couple of thousand for add-ons, rebates and financing. Such a deal.

"I'm the only Victor nut for about 200 miles," jokes Happel, who now owns two 9000s and a VI, runs a Victor bulletin board and helps edit *Victor Circle,* a news disk circulated among 450 users. "I've got enough time, effort and funds invested in my system that I'm going to run it until I can't get it fixed or can't live without something else."

He estimates that won't happen for another three to four years. "So far, there's been a lot of user support," he says. "The question is, how much longer will it exist? The real power users in the Victor world are drifting off, or at least they're getting 'industry-standard' machines to set side by side with their Victors, even though they swear up and down they can't stand to look at the newer screens because of the reduced graphics."

* * *

Don't call them orphans, "ooops," or "other" machines; and, for the older models, the word "dinosaurs" will never do. Enthusiastic users prefer present tense and positive terms. "Hybrids" is nice. Or "survivors," for the pioneers.

Their status varies from model to model, computer to computer, and from year to year. Some are discontinued brands such as the Actrix; a few are exotic foreigners such as the Sinclair QL; and a smattering are obsolete antiques like the Adam or Eagle. All share certain characteristics: They have a dedicated and vocal user base; they're in need of more support than their manufacturers can give them, and they're not colored Big Blue or Big Red.

Why do people buy them in the first place? Why do users turn their backs on the industry giants, knowing that the road less traveled might be lonely

Ruth Chin

Daring to be different: *Happel helps computer enthusiasts*

or, worse yet, could veer into obscurity? Reasons vary. Some computer shoppers do extensive homework, study the products, weigh the features and pick the machine that best suits their needs...whatever the label. They dare to be different and they're proud of it. They love their Kaypro, Heath or Epson. Just ask the man who owns one.

"It's kind of like being the odd guy out," says Dave Groves, an assistant sysop in the Atari Forums (GO ATARINET). "This really sets us up to have a very close family. Atari owners are used to being laughed at for using their 'game machines' for business purposes. But let me tell you, these aren't game machines. These are state of the art."

Other users were less methodical in their market research and made their purchases on a whim and a shoestring. They followed the pack and chose whatever was shiny and on sale. Such was the case a few Christmases ago when the gift most given was a 64K machine with a word processing program. Recipients marveled at the mysterious gizmo, dutifully typed in their recipes and then asked, "now what?" Years later, after the machines were stripped of their mystique and their manufacturers' support, their users—no longer intimidated at the thought of having a computer in the house—were ready to make the machines stretch. But they needed help with the exercise. They still needed to ask someone, "now what?"

"People purchase different machines for different reasons," says Sharon Baker, a CompuServe product manager. "Some users like to step into it very slowly. They think that computing seems like a nice hobby but they don't want to drop a lot of money on it. There are also "cult" groups that truly like having the real antiquated machines. These users may have bought their computers back when IBM and Apple personal computers weren't as dominant as they are today. They've since purchased a 'mainstream' computer but still like to dabble with the older machines."

Dr. Bert Happel is all of the above. At the time of his purchase, money was a consideration, performance was a priority, the market was geared to the buyer, and Victor's price was right.

"Remember, in '83 the IBM PC had just been introduced and there was no 'standard' because the machines hadn't been available long enough," he says.

Greg Miller

Performance vs. price: *Baker*

"I didn't see enough value for the dollar difference in the two machines to convince me to go with the IBM."

As varied as their hardware might be, and as different as their reasons for ownership, many users of non-IBM and non-Macintosh machines grapple with the same problem: undersupport. They can't pick and choose from a bevy of local user groups, they don't have several distribution/service centers within a 10-minute drive, and even if they have access to a retail outlet that carries their model, the shelves of the store aren't lined with an assortment of software. They look for other ways to meet their needs. By chance or by design, sooner or later many owners log onto CompuServe and find exactly what they were lacking—software, solutions and support, both of the moral and technical variety.

"If you have a specific problem with a machine that is undersupported offline, you will usually find someone on the service who has had the same problem and can help," says Kathy Ennis, a CompuServe product specialist.

"Just about every problem that's ever happened has been documented either in the message base or in the data libraries," adds Sharon Baker. "Users find support here that they can't get elsewhere."

Nowhere is that more true than in the Computer Club Forum (GO CLUB), a catch-all for machines that don't have user bases large enough to justify online groups of their own. For some models, such as Texas Instruments, the club has served as a cradle, where interest in a product grew and grew and eventually exploded into a full-fledged forum (GO TINEWS). For other models, the forum is more like a graveyard, a final resting place before inevitable obscurity. For still others, it's a halfway house, a place to reside while the public samples and passes judgment on its wares.

"For orphaned owners the forum is a lifeboat amid the sea of malaise," says Dave Yaros, sysop of the Eagle section of the Computer Club Forum. "Fact is, without the Eagle section there would be little to no support for Eagle owners and users. We are able to exchange info and provide assistance as well as maintain contact with other user groups. We've nested here and like it just fine. CompuServe has kept us viable through ongoing support."

General overseer of the multi-segmented club is Patrick Spera, whose personal hardware inventory includes an Adam, a TI 99 and all versions of the Timex. As one who got into computing with a SuperElf kit and the Microace, he admits to a fondness for other-than-mainline machines. He hates to see a model die and fights to keep even the most obscure computer afloat. If the thing still works when the power is turned on, it's still a viable machine, he insists.

"I remember a person stumbling into the forum desperately seeking anyone who knew anything about the Globe," recalls Spera. "That was a machine made back in the late 1970s. Since I knew somebody online who used to run a computer store that sold Globes, I was able to make a referral."

Many of the 4,000-plus members who congregate in the Computer Club are linked by more than similar hardware. They're usually of an independent ilk, enjoy kibitzing with others who have opted for non-industry-standard machines, and they're fully capable of tearing down their computers in order to tweak a cable here or replace a chip there.

"These people tend to be a little different," says Spera. "They bought their machines because the hardware was cheap and very easy to use. Then they started adding to it. Now they've got full-blown systems, and the cost to upgrade to another computer would be a couple thousand dollars. Why bother? Why move when you've got a completely operational system? When people go against the mainline and use an

Adam or an Apricot, they're looking for economy, but they also don't like to conform much."

However, they're certainly not old curmudgeons who defy anything that smacks of progress. Joe Newman, 19, a student at Bernard Baruch College, chose his Sinclair back in the "glory days" when the company was producing machines at a clip of one every 10 seconds. The Timex/Sinclair was the first personal computer available for under $200, and buyers initially were enamoured with its reasonable price and then captivated by its versatility.

"Sinclair users are not sheep who follow blindly after the status quo, buying what is popular just because it's popular," says Newman, who now is a Sinclair QL and Timex/Sinclair 2068 dealer in New Jersey. "We like our machines and we use them. The problem is that when most people hear I use a Sinclair, they just remember the ZX81, the little black marvel that is now in the Smithsonian. The 2068 is as powerful if not more so than the Commodore 64."

In spite of the high praise for his machines, Newman admits that finding adequate support can be a real dilemma. "Before I accessed CompuServe, I was in limbo," he says. "I had no idea support still existed. The Computer Club definitely is the place to go. Response can be *very* fast. If a user participates in one of the Wednesday night live conferences, often answers can be obtained just seconds after the questions are sent out."

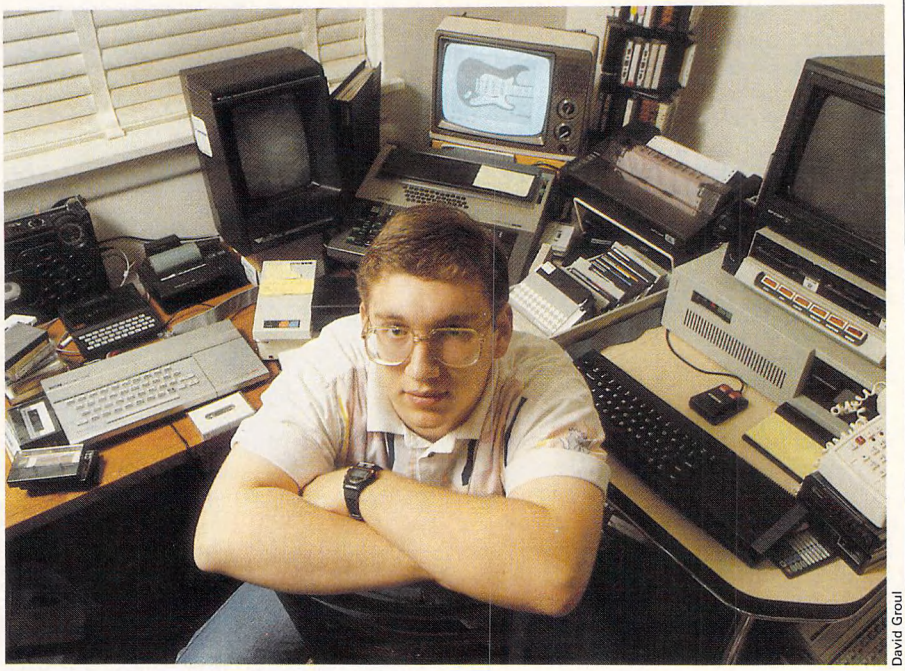
Forum membership seems to ease the concerns that accompany the inevitable "drop dates." Users of discontinued models are well aware of the five-year obligation that a manufacturer has to support its hardware with labor and parts.

"October 1985. That's the countdown date for my Victor," says Happel.

"Our 'abandonment' by Coleco in December of '85 is still fresh in many people's minds," admits ADAMania sysop Tim Nunes.

"We've been abandoned, but we still have each other," adds Vern Roberts, one of a dozen Timex fans in Montana.

For some users, CompuServe not only links them with each other, but also provides a direct connection with the manufacturer of their hardware. Active computer suppliers whose cost-saving programs have led to cuts in user support find online forums an effective means of bolstering customer relations. Such has been the case with



David Groul

Dealing with support dilemma: *Newman, a Sinclair dealer*

Commodore Business Machines.

"CompuServe has had an ongoing relationship with Commodore since 1982," explains Dave Paul, formerly telecommunications manager at Commodore and now a CompuServe product specialist. "At one point, Commodore simply became overloaded, found it necessary to drop its toll-free customer service number, and trimmed its level of customer and dealer support. But to the company's credit, the online assistance has continued."

Commodore users can reach the manufacturer by visiting the Commodore Service Forum (CBMSER). The area is staffed by representatives of the company's telecommunications department who interface with the customer service, parts and engineering departments. A hotline also is available (CBM200) where users can leave messages and receive replies within 48 hours via EasyPlex. For product announcements and software updates, the company sponsors a newsletter (GO CBM).

"In addition to what the company offers online, we have three major forums independent of Commodore but dedicated solely to 8-bit computers," says Paul. "We've got the Commodore Arts and Games Forum, the Commodore Programming Forum and the Commodore Communications Forum. All this adds up to strong support for users."

Typical of the high-tech wizardry accessible to forum members is the crew that manages the Commodore Programming Forum (GO CBMPRG) and the Communications Forum (GO CBMCOM). Chief administrator is Karl Hildon, a former Commodore Canada employee who is founder and editor-in-chief of *The Transactor*, a magazine dedicated to the technical side of Commodore computing. A graduate electronics engineer, Hildon also compiled, designed and produced *The Complete Commodore Inner Space Anthology,* the recognized source of hard-to-find information on all Commodore models. Much of the online staff does double duty as his magazine staff from a compound of offices in Ontario.

In addition to the sysops' expertise, many forum members bring valuable training, skills and war stories to share in the conference and message areas. About a year ago, Jon Jacobs, sysop of the Sanyo turf in the Computer Club Forum, convinced Kent Raymond to drop in on his group. Fortunately for forum members, Raymond liked what he saw and stayed.

"Kent heads a consulting firm in Marietta, Ga.," explains Jacobs. "Not only is he one of the top Sanyo specialists in the country, he's also an expert in virtually any DOS or UNIX environment. He's a board-level specialist who is at the same time strong on installation and applications. As busy as he is with his regular clients, he spends at least 15 hours a week online, and much more time testing new hardware for us

and doing research on particularly esoteric questions."

Raymond returns the compliment. "Since I receive questions through several other services and bulletin boards I can objectively comment on the level of assistance available on CompuServe as compared with the alternatives," he says. "I'm confident in saying the responses throughout the Computer Club are more informative, understanding and timely than the other sources I've worked with. It's rare for any query to go unanswered for more than 12 hours."

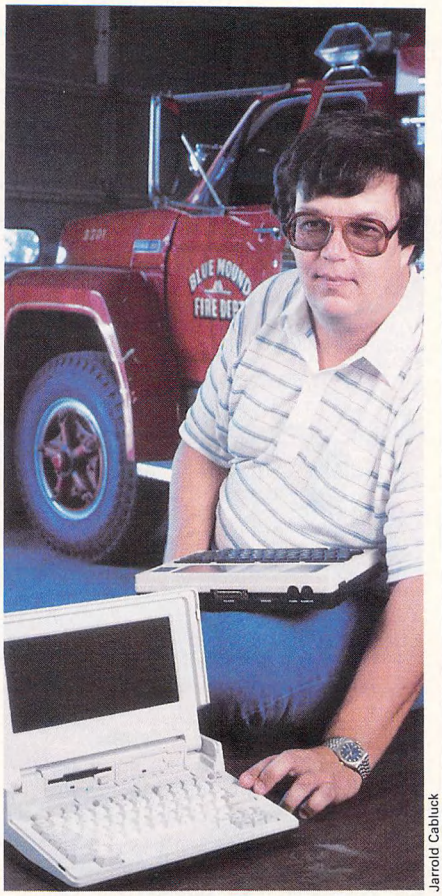
Recruiting such industry experts seems to be a task many forum administrators have taken on for themselves. Atari sysop Dave Groves says he tries to keep four or five top software authors active online, and he also has a hardware repairman as a regular visitor.

"My co-sysop, Tom Hudson, is probably the foremost author of Atari software for the 16-bit machines," says Groves. "Between him and the other developers, people get all sorts of insights into how to better use their programs, how to make their programs run with the hardware they've got, and how to attach their printers to print out the results of what they're doing. I think there's nowhere in the world where anyone can get this kind of support except with us."

Growth of the Atari forums underscores his point. The original group, formed by Ron Luks about seven years ago, burgeoned to a membership base of nearly 20,000 before Atarinet was launched with three branches. In its first year in existence, the 16-bit offshoot grew from zero to 10,000 members. Word of mouth spread quickly: Additional help was available online.

"This is the most incredible support community you can find. Period. End of story," says Sandra van Vegten. "No matter how stupid or complex the question; no matter how aggravated the phrasing, no matter how inept the coding; no matter if the question is covered in the docs, you will get a friendly and civilized response. The software providers come online and give good advice, updates, fixes and hand holding."

Among other perks that support-seeking users find are electronic versions of their computer-specific magazines. *Antic Online* (GO ANTIC) offers eight free software programs each month, half for the 8-bit Atari and half for the Atari ST. "Hot" news is reported within 24 hours, and digitized



Jarrold Cabluck

Resource for Tandy users: *Day*

photos of trade shows, new products and people in the news are included monthly in a RLE (Run Length Encoded) Art Gallery.

Another magazine, *The Tandy Newsletter*, includes a link with the Radio Shack Customer Service Group in Fort Worth. Users can leave messages asking for assistance, although replies sometimes take up to five days. If that's too long to wait, a note posted on one of TandyNet's message boards will bring a second opinion...and third ...or fourth within hours.

"I've always promoted the forums as an electronic users' group that meets seven days a week, 24 hours a day and with a membership roll of thousands of folks," says Wayne Day, Tandy forums manager. "We're lucky in that Tandy doesn't 'orphan' computers like some other manufacturers do. Today you can still order parts for your Model 1, which was introduced more than 10 years ago. They're still selling software that will work for the Model 1 even though it has been discontinued for years. What we *do* have in common with some 'orphans' is a need to share information that manufacturers are reluctant to give out. The forum becomes an invaluable tool for learning based on the experience of other forum members."

Not only do the various forums electronically shore up support efforts that might be dwindling offline, but they also publicize alternative places users can go for help. In one of the Tandy areas, an extensive list of coast-to-coast users' clubs, complete with addresses, is offered. New support bulletin boards are frequently posted in the various message areas.

As helpful as this network of offline support is, no single effort reaches more users than CompuServe. Size, however, has not diminished the personal touch, and online technology has not cooled the camaraderie that ignites when people with similar interests gather together.

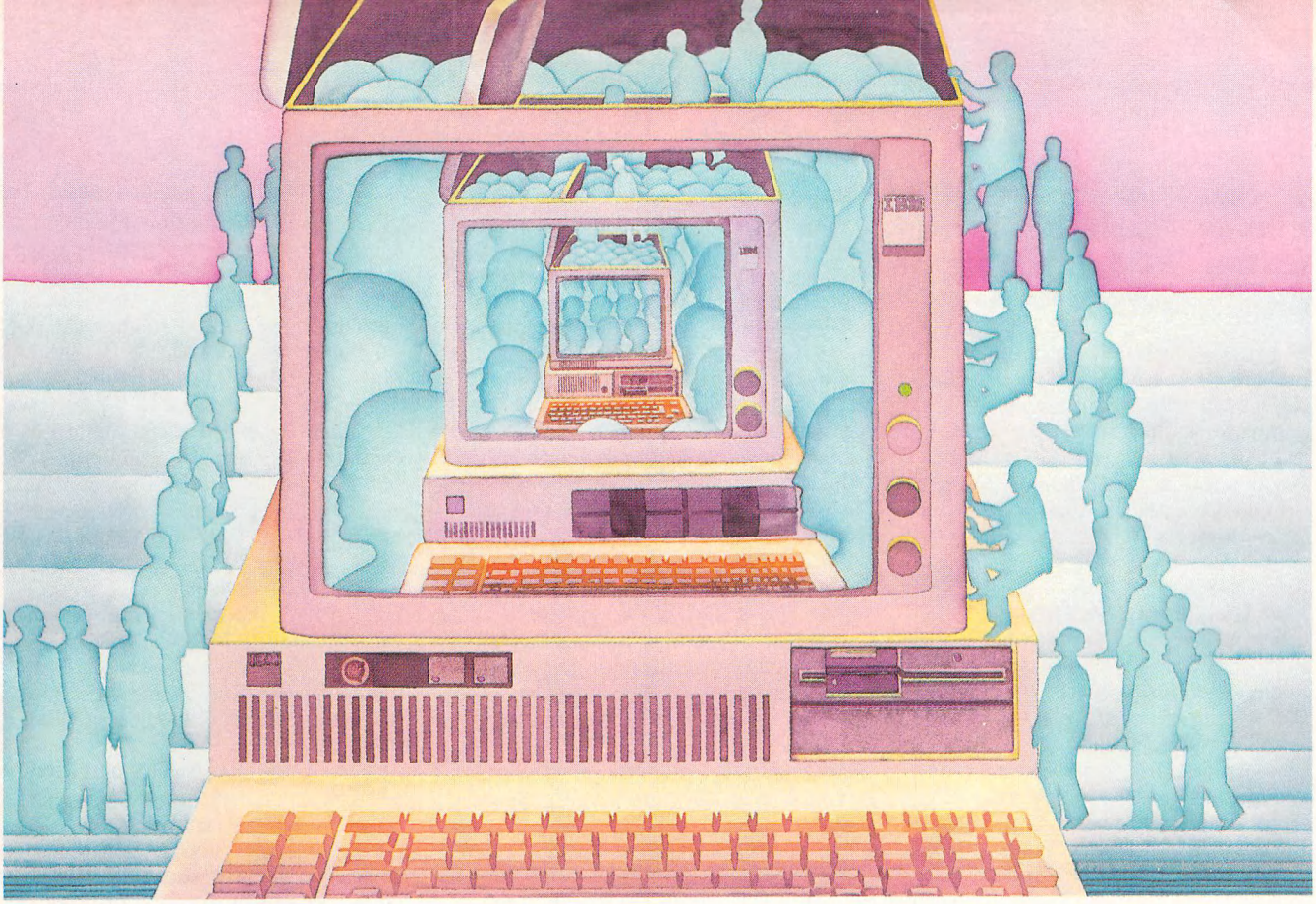
"The forum is really more than a support group," says Vern Roberts, confirmed Timex user. "I attended the second annual Midwest Festival in Indianapolis last May and I expected to see a few people who I had chatted with on CompuServe. To my utter amazement I knew more than 100 people there! I knew struggling computer science majors, noted New England database writers, Canadian artificial intelligence experts and even some relative newcomers from Oregon. All this, through the Computer Club Forum."

Sometimes when users get together they find they share more in common than identical machines. A recent thread winding through one of the Atarinet's message boards was dubbed "fishing." The gist of the many cryptic communiques was that after the next Atari Fair in Florida, two top developers, a well-known technical expert, a certain sysop and a prominent forum member were going to take a week off to do some serious skindiving.

No computer talk allowed, right?

Dave Groves laughs. "I'm sure it will come up between bubbles."

Holly G. Miller, a contributing editor of The Saturday Evening Post *and* Indianapolis *magazine, is a free-lance writer and writing instructor based in Anderson, Ind. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70003,2345.*



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Expert Apple Users Get to the Core of Problems

by James Moran

Corinne Walker had a problem. As problems go, it wasn't a big one. But it was important to Walker and to her company, a small advertising agency in the Chicago area. The agency had a vintage Macintosh computer that needed a memory upgrade and a hard disk. Unfortunately, the company budget could not handle the four-figure upgrade that had been suggested by a local computer store. Although Walker's boss had written off the upgrade until next year, Walker thought there might be an inexpensive way to expand the Macintosh.

After a quick call to a friend, a message detailing Walker's problem was posted on the Micro-networked Apple Users' Group's Macintosh User Forum message board. By the end of the day, Walker had a response from one of MAUG's expert users. She now had the name of a third-party supplier who could provide an inexpensive upgrade.

Walker also had the work phone number of the user who had answered her plea for help. However, a surprise awaited Walker when she called the number to ask a few quick questions and to express her appreciation for the help she had received. "I couldn't believe it," Walker says. "I called the work number I was given and discovered that the MAUG member who took the time to answer my questions worked for Apple in Cupertino, Calif. Now that's what I call an expert." Walker had discovered something that MAUG users—novices and experts alike—have known for some time: there's a core group of experts available to all Apple users on the MAUG forums. And they really want to help you get the most from your Apple computer.

Of course, you don't have to be a novice to appreciate the help that is available on MAUG. Linda Custer is an expert user in her own right, but she still gets help from other members. "The Apple forums have taught me how to put together modem cables, how to 'work around' some of the bugs in the software I use, how to program more effectively and how to solve games," Custer says. "Perhaps most important, I've gotten fast, honest reviews of hundreds of products—often only days after they become available—because the 'first kid on the block' runs to the forum to tell us all about his or her experience."

Custer believes the interaction of experts and novices is unique to MAUG. "Aside from people who just got their first computer, novice and expert are not always clear-cut designations," Custer says. "Users who are experts at a particular genre of program often ask questions about hardware or about a kind of software they haven't yet become expert in. Every member has strengths and weaknesses, and everyone helps the others when possible."

Custer says novices enjoy the forums because they receive answers to their questions within minutes—even at times when their computer dealers have gone away for the weekend. "Experts get a kick out of helping out because they know novices don't stay novices for long and they'll soon see the novices giving the answers," Custer says.

Catherine Reeve

Discovering Apple experts online: *Walker*

Michael Jay

Getting fast reviews of new products: *Custer*

But sometimes new users are nervous about joining in forum discussions. Often they are not sure if leaving a message or asking a question is "proper." Shawn Goodin has been using CompuServe about six years and is an Apple forum administrator. His advice to novices is: "Speak up! Don't be afraid of asking a question, no matter how silly it may seem. We were all novices at one time or another and no one will laugh at your question." Goodin says you will probably get a speedy answer. For just about any other question, try leaving a message about it. Chances are good that someone will help within 24 hours.

If a subscriber needs help in using the Apple forums, there are help files online and the forum administrators are available. Larry Miller has three Apple computers that he uses in his business and he remembers his days as a novice user. "It took a long time before I even had the nerve to leave a message. I remember that I saw the dollar signs flying by every time I signed on because I felt I didn't know what I was doing," Miller says. "If you can forget that somehow, and just relax, you're going to come out ahead in the long run. Just jump in and do something. There's plenty of help available."

Neil Shapiro is the forum administrator of the MAUG forums and he has seen them grow as CompuServe has expanded. Shapiro is sensitive to the needs of his new members and he has definite ideas on how they can get started: "Read the board for a day or two, and then simply pick a conversation and jump in. Many people feel shy about this, but there's really no need to be that way." The forum is a bulletin board and, by definition, that means messages are posted for public response, according to Shapiro. "That's the reason messages are there—to garner response and to help you meet new people."

Shapiro says new users should not feel that they are unwelcome but rather that they have only to step through the door to join an ongoing party. "Anyone with a question about using the forums can leave a message addressed to *SYSOP and the user should get a response within 24 hours," Shapiro says. "If someone is really in trouble, he or she can also call what I refer to as 'the fabled MAUG Help Line' at 516/735-6924 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. EST and I'll try to help."

And what about Corinne Walker? Walker is still a novice user but she has learned much about the Macintosh and how it can help her at the advertising agency. Before Walker started at the agency, the Macintosh was relegated to a corner of the office. No one really knew how to operate it as much more than as a word processor. "Without the help I received through MAUG, that Macintosh would still be gathering dust most days," Walker says. "Now we actually use it. And that's what computers are for, isn't it?"

James Moran is vice president of Programming Service Corp., a Midwestern consulting and research firm. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.

Setting the Standard

Experts Develop MacBinary II Through Online Forum Meetings

If you use your Macintosh to telecommunicate with another computer, you may not know you have it. But you should know, since it is a shining example of what can be accomplished in CompuServe's user group forums.

"It" is the new communications standard for the Macintosh called MacBinary II, successor to MacBinary I. Both were developed online by members of CompuServe's Micro-networked Apple Users Group (GO MAUG) and its offshoot, the Apple Developers Forum (GO APPDEV). "The most important thing about MacBinary is that once it is incorporated into your terminal program it is invisible to the user," says Neil Shapiro, founder of MAUG and a developer of MacBinary.

"You select the option to download via XMODEM protocol and the program, does the rest. You can transmit Macintosh graphics, files, programs—anything you can see on your desktop terminal. It makes the Macintosh the easiest computer there is for uploading and downloading software." And MacBinary II does not make existing MacBinary files obsolete.

Soon after the Macintosh was introduced in 1984, it became apparent that this computer lacked a standard for uploading or downloading its files by XMODEM protocol, although transfer of straight ASCII textfiles was possible. This meant that spreadsheets, graphics and other data could not be transmitted without losing its format.

In late 1984, Shapiro called an online meeting on CompuServe's MAUG to work out the Mac's compatibility problems. Mac users, representatives from Apple Computer Co., Hayes Corp. and other industry sources attended. Proposed standards were thrashed out online. The MacBinary standard emerged from this and two subsequent online meetings.

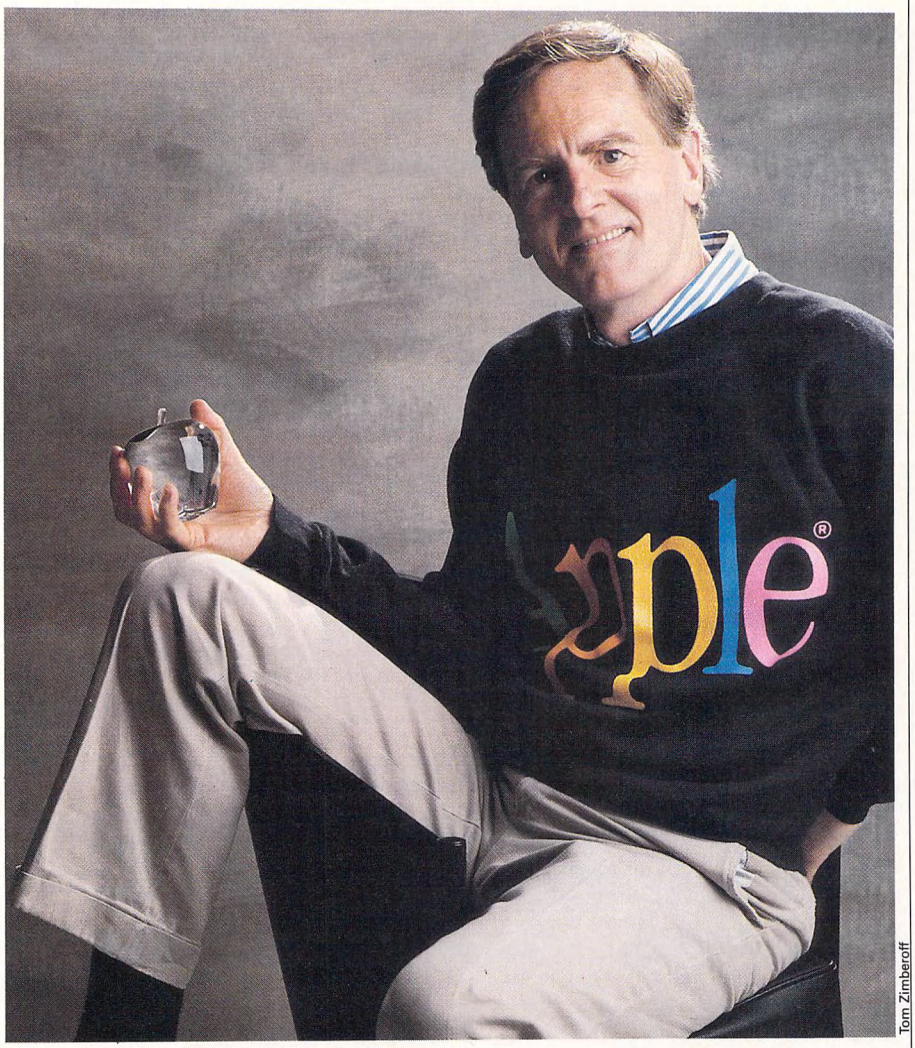
"As far as I know, these were the first online meetings that developed an industry standard," Shapiro says. "When I called the first meeting, I had no idea it would turn into an industry standard. The idea was simply to determine how to upload and download from MAUG, but the standard was so good everybody adopted it."

By early 1987, improvements in Apple's systems software made it desirable to update MacBinary. Once again, the mechanism was a pair of online meetings. Last June in the Apple Developers Forum, one of several offshoots of the original MAUG Forum, Mac users, software developers and representatives of CompuServe and other online services gathered. MacBinary II was the result.

Just what does MacBinary II do? "It's a header that goes in front of the information to be downloaded, containing important information about the file," according to Shapiro. "The standard is a matter of deciding the important information to be passed and the best place to pass it. The first standard defined the header. The new version determined where to enter the new information into the header."

MacBinary II is or soon will be incorporated into many of the terminal programs for the Macintosh. It is available to you at no charge on Freeterm, which you can download from the Telecommunications Data Library in the Macintosh Users Forum (GO MACUS). It also is being incorporated into Hayes' SmartCom, Red Ryder and Microphone 2.0, all communications programs for the Macintosh. As for the Apple Developers Forum, Shapiro promises, "We'll try to keep an eye on MacBinary to make sure it stays abreast of developments in Apple."

—Michael Naver



Unconventional and innovative: *Sculley takes Apple meetings online*

A Chat with John Sculley

Apple's CEO Establishes Rapport with CompuServe Subscribers

by Holly G. Miller

When John Sculley logs onto CompuServe each morning to collect his electronic mail, he often is shocked by the volume and pleased by the tone of what he finds.

"It's amazing how you can establish a channel between people who have never met face to face, but somehow you feel like you're talking with old friends," says Sculley, chairman and CEO of Apple Computer Inc. "People will say, 'Hey, John, what's happening with the fan on the Mac SE?' Or somebody will leave a note referring to a previous conference or ask when the next one is going to take place. These things come through every day, and while I can't possibly answer each one myself, I make sure that somebody gets back to these people."

An overall check of user satisfaction and customer concerns is what Sculley is after. Online feedback has been especially helpful during 1987, a year in which Sculley pledged that his company would introduce more new products than any previous year. The comments so far have been positive on the new Apple IIgs, Macintosh SE and the Macintosh II, with the most frequent complaint being that shipments of the Mac II, begun in May to large corporate customers and universities, weren't keeping up with the demand. User acceptance of the new products—evident in sales figures indicating that 50 percent of Apple's revenue currently is coming from computers the company didn't make a year ago—is reflected in Sculley's daily messages.

"By checking the questions that come through, I have another way of keeping my finger on the pulse of the enthusiasts who are using our products," says Sculley. "It's helpful and, more important, it's a lot of fun."

Sculley, who was recruited by Apple in 1983, has been a CompuServe user since he participated in his first online shareholders conference in January 1986. The idea was viewed as unconventional at the time, but then so was Apple ... unconventional and innovative. Somehow, an exchange of information between a computer company's CEO and its shareholders via the medium they all championed seemed appropriate. However, no one expected more than a few of the Apple faithful to log on and join in. But the response was incredible.

"Apple had gone through a major reorganization," recalls Sculley, "and it was quite clear that a large part of the success we were having was coming from the loyal enthusiasts who still believed in Apple. We felt they deserved to share in the latest news on how Apple was doing. I got together with my technical assistant, Joe Hutsko, and we set up an online link through CompuServe with anybody who wanted to conference with us. We were surprised at how many people showed up. We decided to do it again and we got even more people."

His early forays online, arranged through the Micro-networked Apple Users' Group (GO MAUG), succeeded without any technical glitches. The only near-miss occurred when Sculley and Hutsko found themselves circling National Airport in Washington, D.C., when they were supposed to be hosting an electronic conference with Apple users. Their San Francisco-to-D.C. flight was late in landing, so while users around the country patiently waited for the CEO to log-on, Sculley was nervously tapping his fingers—not his keyboard—several thousand feet over his destination.

"By the time we arrived at the hotel we were a good 40 minutes late," he

recalls. "Joe's room was at one end of the floor and mine was at the opposite end. The hotel was arranged with a core at the center, and as Joe was racing around one side to get to my room, I was racing around the other to get to his room. We kept circling, at least three times; it was sort of like one of the old Marx Brothers movies. We finally got to the same place at the same time and were able to get our modem hooked up and go online."

Better late than never. Sculley and Hutsko now have their collaboration down pat: Sculley fields the questions and Hutsko usually types the responses into either an Apple IIgs or a Macintosh. Sometimes they experiment with VMCO software (Voice Visual Macintosh Conferencing), which allows a conference participant to have a cartoon figure of himself on the screen during an online discussion. Although this adds a graphic dimension otherwise absent in an electronic conference, Sculley insists it is just for fun and predicts more sophisticated graphics will be developed as online communication matures.

"It's true that the world of online information is now limited to 24 lines and 80 columns, but we think it's much like the beginning of the automobile industry when people were starting out as enthusiasts, but then, years later, the thing exploded into mass personalized transportation. I think it's reasonable to expect that as we move into the 1990s, we'll see a popularity of cellular modems just as we see today a popularity of cellular telephones. As graphics, better user interfaces and easier log-on procedures become available, online communication has the potential of exploding into something very important in a lot more peoples' lives."

Even in its relative infancy, CompuServe has acted as a high-tech megaphone in amplifying to Apple users major announcements of new product developments from the site of their introduction. In March, for instance, when Apple unveiled the first Macintosh machines to offer compatibility with the IBM PC's MS-DOS software—the Mac II and the Mac SE—the text of the proceedings was transmitted live to CompuServe via an online connection called the "Convention Center." The event took place in Los Angeles as part of the annual AppleWorld convention and attracted nearly 300 online viewers for a two-hour discussion.

Beyond its value as a link with the external world of Apple users, CompuServe has been integrated into the electronic workforce of Apple's corporate offices in Cupertino, Calif. Sculley currently is overseeing what he calls "a skunkworks project" (a small, independent work group) that involves studying the medical industry's use of computers. "We've been using the CompuServe database to do that whole analysis, and it's been extremely important for us," he explains.

In addition to the obvious no-nonsense role CompuServe plays in his office setting, Sculley jokes that the service also brings with it a friendly element of back-fence neighborly chatter.

"It's kind of a neat way to stay in touch with the latest gossip that's going on out there," he says. "The gossip can be instructive as well as fun. I even discover things that are going on in Apple sometimes."

Holly G. Miller is a free-lance writer and college professor from Anderson, Ind. She also is a contributing editor of The Saturday Evening Post *and* Indianapolis *magazine. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2345.*

IBM Support Forums Provide Solutions

by Charles Bowen

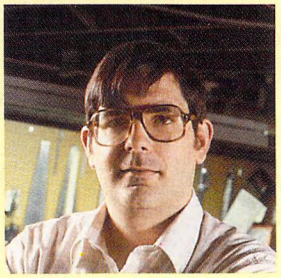
The most important add-on to a computer is a regular flow of technical support and background information. Hardware and software are beautifully self-contained these days and can operate in a vacuum, but most users cannot. Nearly all of us need specific answers from time to time to improve relations with our digital associates.

CompuServe's IBM Users Network (GO IBMNET) is a resource unequaled in the online world. "IBMNET is my single best source on MS-DOS computers," says Dave Hoagland, who regularly accesses the service for specifics on "software, hardware and the machines themselves, including both IBM PCs and clones."

Hoagland, a Livermore, Calif., computerist, also shares what he knows with others as one of the network's recognized online experts, particularly in the area of hardware.

Such give-and-take is the heart of IBMNET, actually a system of five distinct discussion forums that provide solutions to the general questions from beginners and the more complex problems of those more advanced. Like all CompuServe forums, each provides message boards, data libraries of public-domain and user-supported software and real-time conference facilities.

People such as Hoagland—those especially savvy in one area of computing who share their expertise in exchange for information on other facets of the technology—are IBMNET's good guys. Stephen Satchell is another prime example.



"I stayed, because I liked it, and because the quality of information about the IBM PC was the highest of any source available."

Stephen Satchell

Head consultant of his Satchell Evaluations in Morristown, N.J., Satchell also is director of hardware testing for *InfoWorld* magazine. In fact, he got started on the system a few years ago while reviewing CompuServe for that publication. "I stayed," he says, "because I liked it, and because the quality of information about the IBM PC was the highest of any source available, including local bulletin boards, user group meetings, magazines and the dealers."

Satchell's use of the IBMNET forums is typical of the way a frequent visitor can contribute and receive information at the same time. On one hand, since he likes helping people, he freely contributes answers to members' questions, calling on his own extensive research library. And what does he get in exchange?

"I try to see what problems users are encountering so I can test for those problems in the reviews I write," he says. "I have also used comments from the membership to help shape the way I do reviews." Satchell says comments he gets from IBMNET members are "far superior to the comments I've gotten in letters to the magazine."

In fact, several years ago, comments he received online gave him the information he needed "to get my foot in the door at IBM to show the company they *did* have a problem with IBM PC-AT hard disks."

The IBMNET forums are built to serve specific types of questions, discussions and software. They are:

New Users Forum (GO IBMNEW), a gathering place for first-time users and those who like answering questions. The forum features software for recreational games, including games, graphics and music programs for downloading.

Communications Forum (GO IBMCOM), devoted entirely to the world of telecomputing, with information about telecommunications in general and specific terminal programs and bulletin board systems. Most top-flight public-domain and shareware programs, including the popular free AutoSig program, which automates online chores in the forums, are available in the data libraries for downloading.

Hardware Forum (GO IBMHW). Visit here if you need help installing a hard disk or understanding the workings of your printer or monitor. It also is *the* place for talking about what is new and hot in IBM PCs and compatibles. Some of the nation's first detailed discussions of IBM's new Personal System/2 computers, for instance, occurred in this forum. Among its subtopics are disks and disk utilities, printers and video.

Software Forum (GO IBMSW), a popular stomping ground because its libraries feature almost daily additions of public-domain software from its members. Some of their creations rival commercial software costing hundreds of dollars. The forum has subtopics devoted to operating systems, word processing, general utilities, programming, databases, applications and IBM PC-compatibles.

The IBM PC Junior Forum (GO IBMJR), an online clubhouse for those devoted to IBM's earliest efforts at a "home" machine, the PCjr. While IBM has discontinued the system, Junior is alive and well online.

Because the massive data libraries are the most popular feature for many users, IBMNET has gone the extra mile in making them easier to use. For starters, in most IBMNET forums, Data Library 0 is set aside for all new uploads. That means you can see what is new in that forum's files by typing DL0 at the Function menu or prompt, then type BRO/AGE:1 at the subsequent prompt to see what has been uploaded in the past day. (Of course, the number after the "/AGE:" switch can be changed, such as BRO/AGE5 to see the past five days' uploads.)

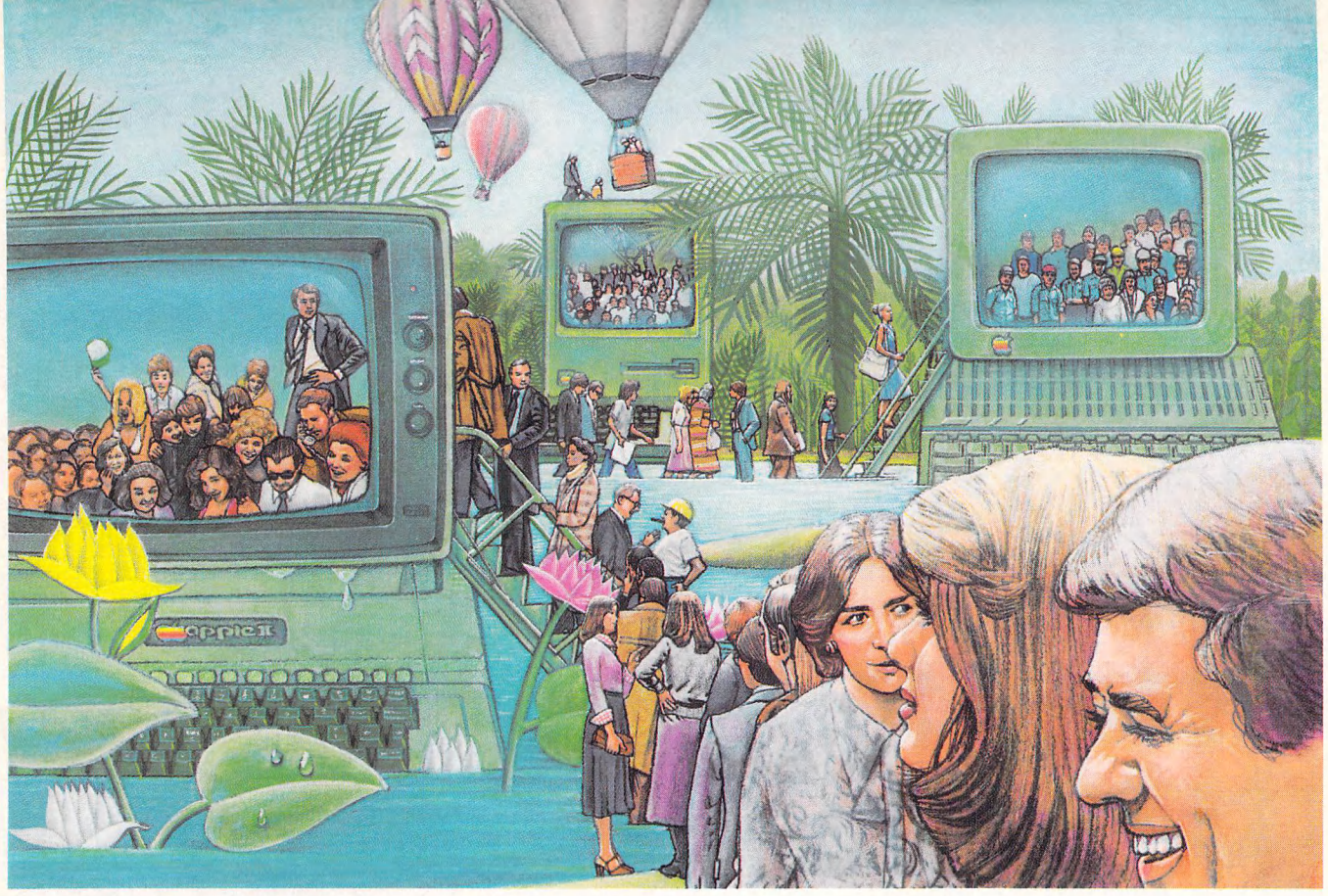
Also in Data Library 0 of most IBM forums is a summary report that provides one-line descriptions of all the files in the remaining libraries. The name of the summary in the Communications Forum is COMSUM.ARC. In the Software Forum it is SWSUM.ARC; in the Hardware Forum it is HWSUM.ARC and in the New Users Forum it is NEWSUM.ARC.

Note that all of these are "archived" files—that is, they are compressed to save space in the libraries and downloading time for you. In other words, you need a small utility to "unpack" them after you have downloaded them.

Charles Bowen, co-author of How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* Advanced CompuServe for IBM Power Users, *is a contributing editor of* Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411.*

Guide to Computer Hardware Support

Amiga Forum	GO AMIGAFORUM	Hardware Forums	GO HARDWARE
Antic Online	GO ANTIC	Heath Users Group	GO HEATHUSERS
Apple Developers Forum	GO APPDEV	Hewlett Packard Forum	GO HP
Apple II & III Forum	GO APPLE	IBM Communications Forum	GO IBMCOM
Apple User Groups Forum	GO APPUG	IBM Hardware Forum	GO IBMHW
Apples OnLine	GO AOL	IBM Junior Forum	GO IBMJR
Ashton-Tate Support Library	GO ASHTON	IBM New Users Forum	GO IBMNEW
Atari 16-Bit Forum	GO ATARI16	IBM Software Forum	GO IBMSW
Atari 8-Bit Forum	GO ATARI8	IBM Users Network	GO IBMNET
Atari Developers Forum	GO ATARIDEV	Kaypro Users Forum	GO KAYPRO
Color Computer Forum	GO COCO	LDOS/TRSDOS6 Users Group	GO LDOS
Commodore Arts and Games Forum	GO CBMART	MAUG	GO MAUG
Commodore Communications Forum	GO CBMCOM	Microsearch Reference Library	GO MICROS
Commodore Programming Forum	GO CBMPRG	MIDI Forum	GO MIDI
Commodore Service Forum	GO CBMSER	Macintosh Business Forum	GO MACBIZ
Commodore Users Network	GO CBMNET	Macintosh Users Forum	GO MACUS
CompuServe's Software Exchange	GO SOFTEX	OS9 Forum	GO OS9
Computer Club Forum	GO CLUB	PC Vendor Support Forum	GO PCVEN
Computer Express	GO CE	PDP-11 Forum	GO PDP11
Computer Science Corporation	GO LOG-156	Tandy Model 100 Forum	GO M100SIG
CrossTalk Forum	GO XTALK	Tandy Newsletter	GO TANDY
DEC PC Forum	GO DECPC	Tandy Professional Forum	GO TRS80PRO
DEC Users Network	GO DECUNET	TANGENT Forum	GO TANGENT
Dr Dobb's Journal	GO DDJ	Telecommunications Forum	GO TELECOMM
Epson Forum	GO EPSON	Texas Instruments Forum	GO TIFORUM
Family Computing Electronic Ed	GO FAM	Texas Instruments News	GO TINEWS
Family Computing Forum	GO FAMFORUM	The Tandy Users Network	GO TANDYNET
		VAX Forum	GO VAXFORUM



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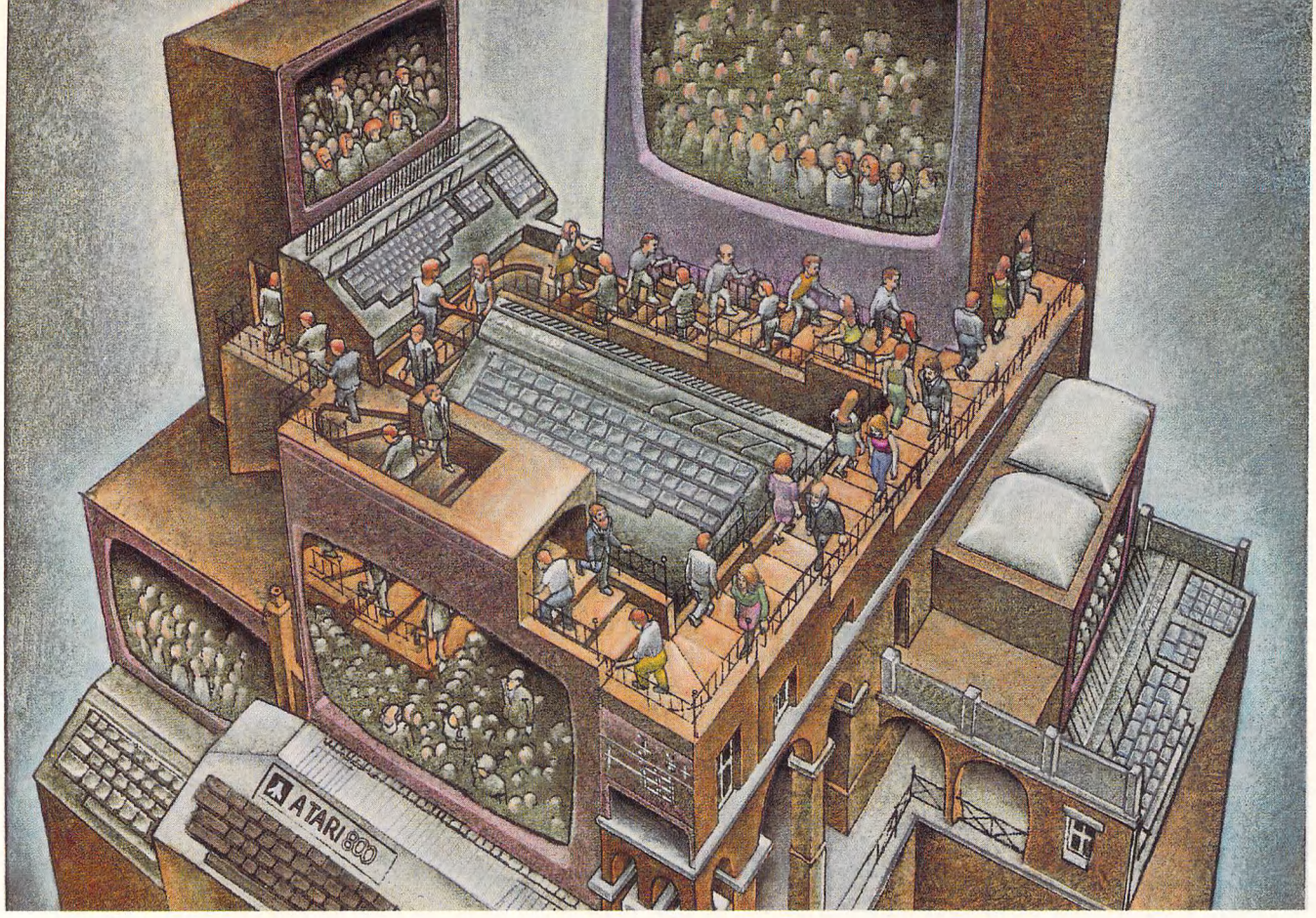

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Devoted exclusively to users of the ST-series, the **Atari 16-bit Forum** provides programs, textfiles, assistance, product reviews, transcripts of online conferences and more.

The **Atari Developers Forum** is the authorized distribution area for all updates to Atari's registered software developer's kit for both the 8-bit and 16-bit Atari Computers. Members may access conferencing channels, data libraries, free programs and software.

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Information USA Adds Articles

Information USA has added articles about AIDS and education research. It also has added a newsletter that specifies the availability of mailing lists, their formats and costs.

The "Free Help for You and Your Family," "Health Matters" and "Careers and Education" section articles provide sources on AIDS and education research, and identify new AIDS hotlines. GO IUS

Online Help Offered to Smokers

CompuServe subscribers can quit smoking in four weeks with the new online Stop Smoking System.

The system is tailored to the individual and simulates a psychologist's assistance by posing questions and monitoring the subscriber's progress. The system's instructions are responsive to the subscriber's participation. GO NOSMOKE

Advanced MS-DOS Book Available

An advanced guide to CompuServe for users of MS-DOS computers now can be ordered for $17.45 plus $2.50 shipping and handling through CompuServe's Online Ordering Service.

The new guide, *Advanced CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users,* is published by Bantam Books and written by long-time CompuServe subscribers Charles Bowen and David Peyton, authors of *How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe.*

The guide introduces the reader to CompuServe's IBM Users Network, forums and services for IBM compatibles, and forum administrators. GO ORDER

Subscriber Directory Enhanced

The CompuServe Subscriber Directory has been enhanced to include international subscribers in addition to Canadian and US subscribers.

The directory is searchable by name and makes EasyPlex communications easy by including the first and last name, city, state and User ID number of each of CompuServe's more than 370,000 subscribers. GO DIRECTORY

PaperChase Offers Reduced Night and Weekend Rates

PaperChase, the online service that gives you the power of Medline, is offering CompuServe subscribers a special rate during November.

CompuServe subscribers who search PaperChase between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. local time weekday evenings and on weekends will pay only an $18-per-hour surcharge—a 25 percent savings from the regular $24-per-hour surcharge. Connect charges remain the same.

You can search PaperChase to get the medical facts you need from more than 5 million references from 4,000 journals. For up-to-the-minute biomedical information, PaperChase is the service you need.

Remember, you get a user-friendly service with easy-to-follow search menus. For more information, call 800/722-2075. GO PCH

Air Traffic Controller Lists Scores

CompuServe *Air Traffic Controller* players now can find average scores and rankings listed in Data Library 14 of the Multi-Player Games Forum.

The ATC.SUM file lists top players by points per shift and includes honors for Most Clean Shifts and Most Near Misses. The ATCRNK.LST file lists players and their earned ranks. The files will be updated monthly. GO MPGAMES

Weather Reports Added Online

CompuServe has added surcharge-free State Weather Summaries and the Daily Climatological Report to the online National Weather Service reports.

The State Weather Summaries are available for most states and are updated daily. These summaries provide temperatures, precipitation, wind, cloud coverage and other ranges for the previous evening, the current and next day.

The Daily Climatological Report is issued for major cities and summarizes the previous day's weather compared to statistics for daily normals including high and low average, precipitation, wind, sunrise and sunset. GO WEA

Florida Sales Tax Applied

Effective immediately, the state of Florida requires that its residents pay a 5 percent Florida sales tax on CompuServe services.

The tax also applies to supplemental telecommunications and product surcharges and will be added to all Florida subscribers' CompuServe charges.

Sun 'N Sand Adds Vacations

Sun 'N Sand Vacations and Sears Travel have added Texas to the growing number of vacation package destinations available online.

San Antonio, Dallas and Houston packages include hotel and tax with optional rental car and air fare. Subscribers can use SearsCharge or Discover Card for Sears Travel packages. GO SNS

Gift of Time

Online Today offers subscribers the chance to write a 200-word essay on how they use CompuServe's Information Service.

Your essay should be typed double-spaced and sent to *Online Today,* CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, or by an EasyPlex message to 70003,3246. Please include your full name, address and User ID number.

If we use your column, you will receive 10 hours of standard service connect time (a $60 value) and a byline.

CompuServe Provides Unlimited Libraries of Software

I have been a CompuServe subscriber for almost two years, but I do not think I have yet realized the full potential of the nation's number one network. However, I have found one region that has been of great benefit to me. The software available for my Tandy Model 100 portable computer is limited, but CompuServe has solved this problem in the Model 100 Forum (GO M100SIG).

Almost all of my best software has come from the data libraries of the Model 100/Portables Forum. For example, after I bought a 1200-baud modem for my Model 100, I found a utility program in the data library that allows my computer to communicate at the modem's full capacity. Without this program, the Model 100's screen-scrolling routine would limit its communication speed to only 600 baud.

Countless other software programs and informational files for the Model 100 exist in the Model 100/Portables Forum. Without this forum, my computer would be lifeless.

Scott A. Rogers
Hendersonville, Tenn.

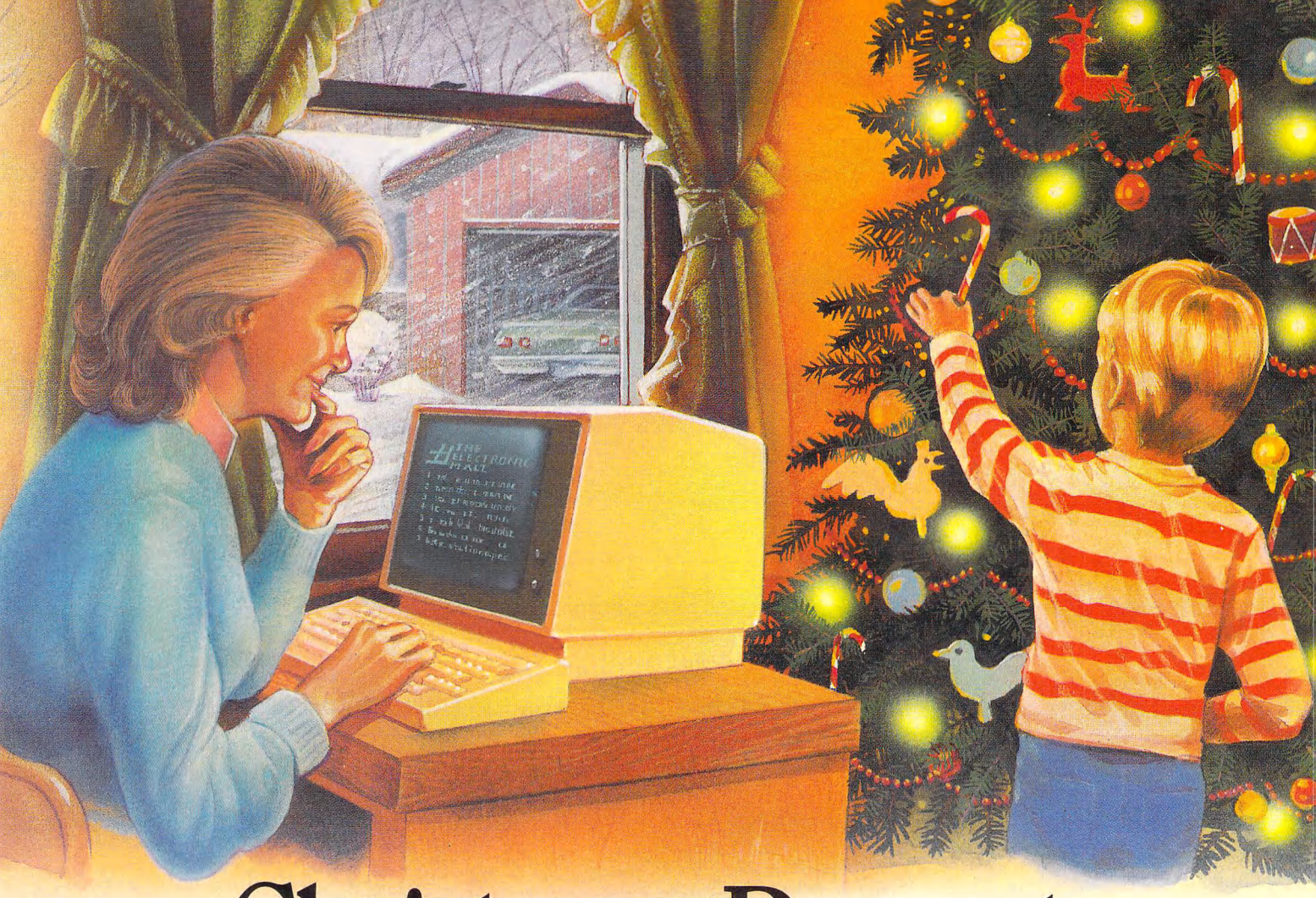
Christmas Past.

Holiday shop conveniently in the comfort

Fighting Christmastime crowds can turn the happiest of holidays into one big headache. That's why CompuServe and the merchants in THE ELECTRONIC MALL™ got together to bring you Holiday Bazaar '87—a fun and convenient way to shop. Without ever leaving home, you can buy online from Brooks Brothers, General Nutrition Corporation, Pepperidge Farms, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and many other famous retailers across the country.

This year, CompuServe has a special gift for ELECTRONIC MALL shoppers. Starting November 1, the first 500 shoppers to spend more than $50 in THE ELECTRONIC MALL during any 24-hour period will receive $5 free connect time. Plus, connect time on Thanksgiving Day and the day after is FREE.

From software to sportswear, toys to tools and flowers to fruits, Holiday Bazaar '87 has gifts that are guaranteed to please everyone on your list. Plan your visits department by department, including stops in Apparel & Accessories, Automotive, Books, Gifts & Novelties, Computing, Gourmet & Flowers, Home & Appliances, Hobbies & Toys, Merchandise & Electronics, Online Services, Periodicals, Premium Merchants, Music & Movies, Health & Beauty, Financial and Travel. You're sure to find something just right for every member of the family.



Christmas Present.

of CompuServe's ELECTRONIC MALL.

In addition to fabulous gift selections, Holiday Bazaar '87 features some unique services you won't find anywhere else. The **Holiday Gift Giving Guide** offers hundreds of gift ideas, organized by category. So if you're puzzled over the perfect gift for Peter or Pamela, the Gift Giving Guide can provide you with clues.

For quick communication with the North Pole, **Talk to Santa.** The jolly ol' elf himself will be available to receive letters from kids, or to help puzzled adults. If you're at a loss over a special gift for someone, leave a message with Santa, and he'll get back to you [through EasyPlex™] with just the right gift suggestions. And while you're online, be sure to check out **Holiday Hotline** for weekly updates on new merchandise, events and special promotions, including **Mistletoe on the Mall.**

This Christmas, save your sanity and shop in the mall—CompuServe's ELECTRONIC MALL. No parking, no waiting, no hassle. Free connect time on Thanksgiving Day and the day after plus connect time credits. THE ELECTRONIC MALL. A Christmas present for you—from your friends at CompuServe.

THE ELECTRONIC MALL

P.O. Box 20212
5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43220

THE ELECTRONIC MALL and EasyPlex are trademarks of CompuServe Incorporated.

Public Access Provides Warehouse of Files

by Matthew Burns

Two words give you access to an online warehouse holding hundreds of files: GO ACCESS.

Public Access is CompuServe's clearinghouse for files submitted by subscribers for use by other subscribers.

In it you can find files of all types and sizes, from descriptions of UFOs to word-processing programs. Some files contain only text, while others contain software programs.

As its name implies, Public Access is open to all CompuServe subscribers. There is nothing to join, and there is no extra charge to use the area.

Each file in Public Access is tagged with descriptive keywords and a brief description of its contents. By browsing through this information, you can find files that interest you, without examining each file.

Once found, files can be read online, copied to your Personal File Area or downloaded to your microcomputer. Suppose, for example, that you're an avid lottery player who is tired of manually choosing lottery numbers. Here is how you could search Public Access for a program that picks lottery numbers for you.

1. Type GO ACCESS at any prompt. This takes you to Public Access where you will see this menu:

```
PUBLIC FILE ACCESS
1 (BRO) Browse thru Files
2 (SCA) Scan
3 (KEY) Keyword List
4 (DOW) Download a File
5 (REA) Read a File
6 (COP) Copy a File to PER Area
7 (UPL) Upload a New File
8 (SUB) Submit a File
Enter choice !
```

2. Select Option 1. Access will display the following prompt on your screen:

```
Enter Keywords (e.g., modem): or <CR>
for all:
```

3. Type LOTTERY. This tells Access to show you descriptions of only those files having lottery as a keyword.

Next, Access displays this prompt on your screen:

```
Oldest files in days or <CR> for all:
```

4. Press the Return key. This instructs Access to find all files having the keyword lottery, regardless of their age.

If you had done the same search last week, you might type a 7 here to tell Access to find only those files added in the last seven days with the keyword lottery.

After you complete Step 3, Access displays the description of the first file it finds meeting your criteria, followed by this prompt:

```
Enter command, N for next file or <CR>
for disposition menu !
```

Here's where you indicate whether you want Access to retrieve the file. If you're not interested in the file, type N. Access then displays the description of the next file having the keyword lottery.

If you want to read or download the file, press the Return key. A menu will appear and you can choose to read or download the file, or return to the Public Access menu.

Although keywords can save you time, you don't have to use them to browse through files in Public Access. If you press the Return key at both the keyword and file age prompts, Access displays descriptions of all the files available to you.

What if, when prompted for a keyword, you type a word that is not a keyword? Access will try to find a file with a keyword matching your entry. When it can't, it flashes the message "No references found."

"No references found" means no references were found matching your keyword. If you get this message, select Option 3 from the Public Access menu. There you can find an alphabetized list of all keywords used in Public Access.

Keep in mind that keywords and the descriptions that accompany each file are supplied by the people who submit the file, not by CompuServe. Consequently, you may have to use different keywords to find files with similar contents.

As a depot, Public Access is not limited to outbound files. Options 7 and 8 on the Public Access Menu allow you to submit your files to Public Access.

Select Option 7 to upload a file from your microcomputer; select Option 8 to copy a file from your Personal File Area.

After selecting either option, Access prompts you for the information it needs to copy the file from your computer or Personal File Area.

You're asked to type a summary and name that describes your file and descriptive keywords. Make sure that the keywords you enter are separated by commas or spaces.

Keywords can include special characters, such as an equal sign (=), a hyphen (-), a period (.), a dollar sign ($) and a pound symbol (#). Your keyword entry—including special characters, commas and spaces—can contain up to 80 characters.

You also are asked if you would like the file to be visible. If you answer no, your file will be "invisible."

An invisible file is like any other file in Public Access except that it can be found only by people who know its file name. It is invisible to those who are browsing or scanning files.

Invisible files are a handy way of sharing private information that is too long—more than 10,000 characters or 600 lines—to send through EasyPlex.

Regardless of how you submit a file to Public Access, it takes about 24 hours before the file actually appears in Public Access.

Matthew Burns is an associate technical writer at CompuServe. His User ID number is 76003,660.

Ask Customer Service

Q: I travel often on business trips. Does CompuServe have services that allow me to view airline schedules and make reservations?

A: Yes. CompuServe has three online travel services available for viewing schedules and making reservations 24 hours a day. Type GO FLIGHTS for more information on Eaasy Sabre, the Official Airline Guide Electronic Edition and Travelshopper.

Q: Is there a service that allows me to make not only airline reservations, but also hotel and car rental reservations?

A: Eaasy Sabre allows you to make airline, hotel and car reservations (GO EZS). There are several other services that provide hotel information. Type GO HOTELS at any prompt to view a list.

Q: I plan to travel by car during the holiday season. What services do you offer that can assist me with my travel plans?

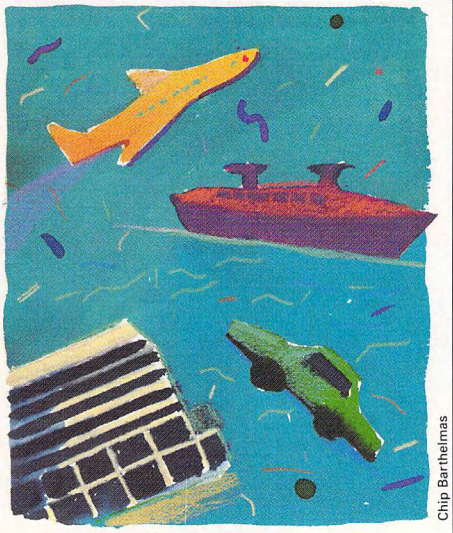
A: The Travelvision database offers several services for motorists, including maps, routing information and trip guides. The ABC Worldwide Hotel Guide provides a list of more than 28,000 hotels worldwide. The information on each hotel includes street address, phone number, location in town, rates and other descriptive information about the hotel's appearance. Type GO ABC at any prompt.

Q: Where can I find advisory information for international travel?

A: The International Travel database offers updates on Visa and State Department advisories. The State Department section includes up-to-date information on traveling to various countries. The advisories cover political unrest, currency regulations and general information for the American traveling abroad. Type GO TRA-9 at any prompt.

Q: My family and I plan to take a cruise or tour. Does CompuServe have any information on available packages or special offers?

A: Sun 'N Sand Vacations has an online reservation and inquiry area. You can make reservations or inquiries about travel packages with the travel consultants. American Express ADVANCE also offers a variety of cruise and travel packages. Type GO TRA-7 for more information.



Chip Barthelmas

Q: What should I do if I need to cancel my airline reservations placed through one of the airline services?

A: Airline reservations placed through Eaasy Sabre, the Official Airline Guide Electronic Edition and Travelshopper can be canceled online. However, there may be a cancellation fee depending on the restrictions applied to the ticket. Your travel or ticket agent would have more details.

Q: I am thinking about traveling abroad. Where can I obtain information on travel tips?

A: Information USA offers a comprehensive list of federal agencies that provide free information about American embassies, country studies, emergency centers, maps, travel advisories and climate data. Type GO TRA-9 for more information.

Q: Do any services announce travel specials?

A: What's New in Travel announces specials on airline rates, travel packages and articles on new places to discover. This area is updated regularly. Type GO WNT to learn what's new on the CompuServe travel menus.

—Susan Coke

These answers and more are available in Customer Service's Question & Answer Database. You can find answers to questions about billing, logging on, using forums, sending EasyPlex messages, using the Personal File area, setting up a Personal Menu and more. Type GO QUESTIONS at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

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VIA MODEM

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List your preferred company or personal E-Mail address in the National E-Mail Registry™— the online E-Mail phone book.

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300/1200/2400 Baud. 7 Bit Word.
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Touch Return Three Times.

NATIONAL E-Mail REGISTRY

GO OLI or circle 7 on the Reader Service Form.

Software Delivered Electronically

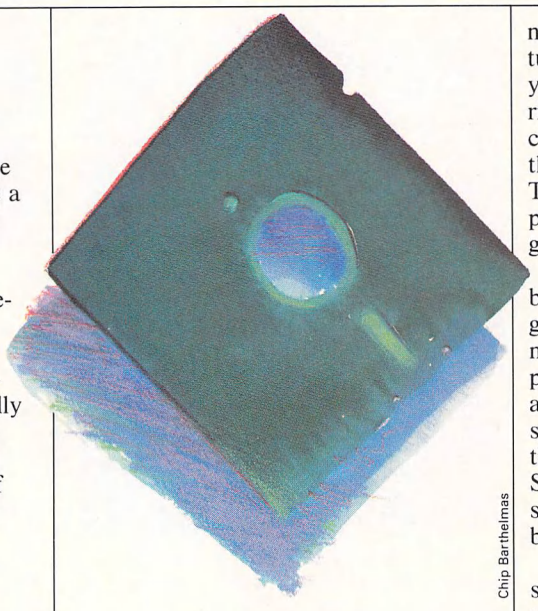
by Matthew Burns

CompuServe's Software Exchange service makes shopping for software a one-stop experience. You can select and purchase software online, and CompuServe will pipe the software directly to your computer without delay.

In addition to saving you time, SOFTEX can save you money. Software offered through SOFTEX usually costs less than comparable software found in retail stores.

You can choose from a catalog of software that includes programming utilities, tutorials, spreadsheet and accounting packages, and entertainment products.

As a CompuServe subscriber, all you need to receive programs from SOFTEX is communications software that supports an error-checking transfer protocol, such as B Protocol or XMODEM.



Chip Barthelmas

To get to the SOFTEX main menu, type GO SOFTEX. From this menu, you can choose to read an introduction to SOFTEX or instructions on using SOFTEX, search the database or view a menu of featured SOFTEX selections.The (W)s that appear on the menu indicate that SOFTEX contains some menus wider than 32 characters.

Let's say that you want software for a Commodore 128 computer. To start your search, select Option 3 from the SOFTEX menu for a menu of search criteria. This menu enables you to search for software by computer model, program category, publisher, date of publication, program title or SOFTEX catalog number.

Next, select Option 1 (Computer Model) from the "Search By" menu for a menu of computer models from which you can select Commodore 128. After specifying Commodore 128, SOFTEX combs its database, placing the software matching your search criteria in a "selection set."

If SOFTEX finds between one and 19 software entries matching your criteria, it automatically displays a menu showing the title, computer model and price of each software entry. If the selection set contains more than 19 entries, SOFTEX displays its "Next Action" menu. This menu offers you the choice of displaying a menu of software titles matching your criteria, or expanding or narrowing the selection set.

Should SOFTEX find 200 or more software entries matching your search criteria, you must narrow the selection set or begin a new search.

When you choose to expand or narrow a selection set, SOFTEX returns you to the "Search By" menu so you can specify additional search criteria. As a rule of thumb, it is most efficient to search by criteria in the order they appear on the "Search By" menu. Thus, search for software first by computer model, second by program category, third by publisher, and so on.

Program categories—which include business, communications, education, games, graphics, home/home management, medical/dental health, music, personal finance and program tools—are particularly helpful in narrowing a selection set. If in narrowing a selection set you inadvertently empty it, SOFTEX offers you the choice of "restoring" the previous selection set or beginning a new search.

Up to this point, you've been searching the SOFTEX database. Once you choose to display a selection set, you're ready to shop.

You can review software descriptions by selecting choices from the menu of software titles. Special hardware or software needed to use the software are noted in the descriptions.

The descriptions also mention whether documentation accompanies the software. If it does, it comes with the software at the time of purchase or is mailed to your CompuServe billing address via first-class mail.

After displaying a description, SOFTEX asks if you wish to purchase the software. If you decide you want the software, insert a blank, formatted disk into your computer's disk drive (or a blank tape into your tape drive) before answering "Yes." SOFTEX begins downloading the software to your computer after you type Yes.

Depending on your communications software, SOFTEX may ask you to choose a transfer protocol before beginning the download. If you're using CompuServe's VIDTEX or Professional Connection software, select B Protocol.

For many software entries, SOFTEX supports transfers using XMODEM protocol. Check the documentation that came with your communications software if you're in doubt about the transfer protocol it supports.

If for any reason the transfer of software from SOFTEX to your computer is interrupted or incomplete, you can copy it again, free of charge, within 30 days of the date you purchase it.

Since purchases are handled through CompuServe, you pay for your software at the same time and in the same way you pay your CompuServe bill.

AMERICA'S #1 ON-LINE DISCOUNT BROKER

BUY AND SELL STOCKS ONLINE

And Save Brokerage Commissions

For A Free Brochure
On CompuServe
GO TKR

In The Electronic Mall
GO MU

Or Call Toll Free
(800) 223-6642

In New York
(212) 687-0705

Modem 5:00 PM - 9:00 AM
24 Hours Weekends
(212) 986-1660

MaxUle& Company Inc.

202 East 39th St.
NY, NY 10016

GO OLI or circle 8 on the Reader Service Form.

Go Mall

A GUIDE TO COMPUSERVE'S ELECTRONIC MALL NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1987

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies for 10 new merchants.
From the traditional styles of Brooks Brothers to the kitchen confections of Pepperidge Farm.

Your chance to make 'The Right Choice.'
Search AT&T's Mall inventory for clues to free gift certificates.

Stay up-to-date in '88.
A collection of calendars.

Outwit the Mixed-up Mall Merchant Maze.

Holiday Bazaar '87: Online incentives to celebrate the season.

- A Guide to Giving ... more than 400 gifts.
- A Holiday Hotline ... online.
- *The 12 Days of Christmas* ... a Mall version.

THE ELECTRONIC MALL™

DEAR SHOPPER

Dear Shopper,
This year I'm one of those people—that everyone hates—who's finished all of her Christmas shopping before Thanksgiving. It took me exactly two hours and 48 minutes. That includes everything—getting to the stores, wrapping the gifts and even mailing the packages. My secret? The Electronic Mall, of course.

Actually, while you're probably just beginning to "think Christmas," we at The Mall have been thinking of little else since mid-July. We sweated through those 99-degree dog days of summer, in Santa suits, searching The Mall high and low for unique holiday gifts. The result? The Mall's Electronic Gift Giving Guide, which features 400 presents sure to satisfy even the most impossible to please. Organized by category, this year's guide is also searchable by price to assist you further in making selections.

If you're still perplexed, we invite you to "Talk to Santa." He and his electronic elves, standing by at the North Pole, will provide a list of gift suggestions tailored just for you. This year we've got online recipes ... news on free connect shopping ... Walter Knoll's "Mistletoe on The Mall" ... and much more. It's all part of The Mall's festive celebration, Holiday Bazaar '87.

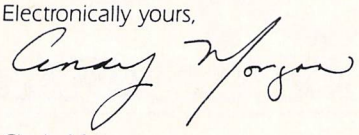
A number of new merchants have joined us on The Mall just in time for holiday gift giving, including: Brooks Brothers, Pepperidge Farm and Tele-Charge theatre tickets.

We invite you to start—and finish—your Christmas shopping at The Mall this year. By shopping electronically, you save precious time to savor the season. Share your secret with family and friends by hosting an electronic shopping party. You'll find instructions inside and online.

In short, we think you'll find something at The Mall for everyone on your gift-giving list. The seduction of silks and chocolates ... the intrigue of high-tech toys and tools ... software and sportswear ... a Lamborghini or a Porsche, perhaps. And, if all you want for Christmas is your two front teeth, The Mall can oblige. Simply visit Tooth Fairyland, one of more than 75 Mall merchants at your fingertips.

Happy holidays to one and all!

Electronically yours,



Cindy Morgan

GOINGS ON

Season's shopping from The Electronic Mall.

Imagine holiday shopping without the crowds: stores minus surly sales clerks and long checkout lines ... merchandise that isn't mauled...empty parking lots. A fantasy? No. Headache-free holiday shopping is not a mirage. It's a reality at The Mall.

Visit The Mall's Holiday Bazaar '87 and discover:

- An electronic "Gift Giving Guide" featuring 400 great gift ideas.
- A "Holiday Hotline" with news on special sales, and free connect time.
- "Talk to Santa," your direct line to the North Pole.
- Recipes, "How to Host a Holiday Party"

This year it's all happening at The Mall. To celebrate the season, GO HOL.

Wanted: Earlybird shoppers.

CompuServe has a reward for the first 500 subscribers who start their holiday shopping at The Mall—a $5 usage credit. To qualify, simply be one of the first 500 shoppers to spend more than $50 in The Electronic Mall during any 24-hour period beginning Nov. 1. It's The Mall's reward for your shopping savvy.

Two days of free Mall connect.

In addition to early holiday happenings, The Mall is also celebrating the traditional launch of the holiday shopping season with two days of free connect. That's right, there'll be no connect time charges while shopping The Mall on Thanksgiving (Thursday, Nov. 26) and the day after (Friday, Nov. 27).*

Between the turkey dinner and the big game, take off for The Mall. Gather friends and family around the personal computer and take them on a holiday shopping spree—for free! GO MALL

*Note: Remember that for Mall promotions that include free connect time, all applicable communications surcharges remain in effect. Free connect is always from midnight to midnight.

Spend two weekends paging through Waldenbooks—free.

Waldenbooks invites you to a complimentary shopping spree of its Mall store for two weekends this holiday season: Nov. 28, 29 and Dec. 5, 6. Browse Waldenbooks' selection of bestsellers, videos, audio tapes and their all-new WaldenKids section. Take your time. The connect tab is on Waldenbooks. GO WB

See what you can hear: Express Music's Disc Deal.

It's simple. Purchase just 13 titles (CDs, LPs or cassettes) from Express Music and you get a 14th disc absolutely free.

Getting started is a breeze. Simply make a purchase online anytime after Oct. 21. You'll automatically be enrolled in the program. Express Music will take care of the bookkeeping, too. Periodically, you'll receive an EasyPlex letting you know how many more purchases you need to qualify for your free disc.

For details, and for the widest selection of sounds around, GO EMC.

ELECTRONIC LETTERBOX

Driving a dream.

Dear Mall manager:

Today, my Alfa Romeo Quadrifoglio was delivered ... and I fell in love. AutoVision—a truly class act—located a hard-to-find vehicle for me at a great price.

Robert K.

Transcontinental coffee.

Dear Coffee Emporium:

It may seem strange to have coffee delivered across the country, but your products are more fresh than what we can get locally.

Christopher R.

Go Mall, November/December 1987
Volume 1 Number 5

Go Mall is published bimonthly by The Electronic Mall™, a service of the Advanced Media Group, CompuServe Incorporated. For more information, call 614/457-8600, or send an EasyPlex to 70007,1610. Editors: Cindy Morgan, Mike Mooney, Kirk Donnan, Laurie McSweeney and Kassie Rose.

New! A North Pole node.
Been a good little boy or girl this year? Let Santa know via an electronic letter. Santa and his electronic elves are standing by at the North Pole waiting to hear from you. Climb up on Santa's knee with your electronic wish list.

Santa and his elves also offer you free electronic gift counseling. Not quite sure what to get Uncle Harry, Grandma or the boss this year? Send his or her vital stats to the electronic Santa and receive a customized list of online gift suggestions. Santa wants to hear from you. GO HOL

Sending season's greetings.
Sending holiday wishes to friends and relatives is easy this year with a box of 48 full-color notecards. Only $16.95. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

Twas The Night Before Christmas is an animated musical disk that lets you send computerized Christmas greetings. Available for Commodore, Apple and IBM. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

Or make a big, festive statement of season's greetings to someone with a six-foot holiday banner. From BannerGram. GO BG

Jingle bells.
A selection of brass bells to chime at Christmastime and year-round. From J.E. Smith Brassware. GO JE

Talking turkey.
A tender, young USDA Grade "A" smoked turkey. Each is slowly smoked and fully cooked over a hardwood fire to guarantee a plump, juicy feast. Ten-pound average. From Simon David. GO SIM

Counting the days.
These advent calendars gauge the wait for Christmas. Behind each window is a surprise—24 in all. To ensure delivery by Dec. 1, please order by Nov. 15. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

The Electronic Mall's 12 Days of Christmas

'Twas 12 days before Christmas and throughout the community, there were gifts still to purchase; no one had immunity.

Season's greetors met merrily to chatter on CB, while last-minute shoppers stared blankly at PCs.

'What to do, what to do,' many asked, hope abandoned. 'Christmas is nigh and my list still a grand one.'

When what to their shimmering screens should appear, but a page in The Mall that could bring cheer to King Lear.

A dozen fine gifts, lay keystrokes from shipment, for folks in the habit of 11th hour commitments.

As I exclaimed in a Plex that I wrote late that nite, 'Thank you, Mall merchants, for your holiday insight.'

User ID withheld by request (again this year)

Twelve Beatles CDs from *Express Music CD*

An 11-piece tool kit from *Heathkit*

***The History of Santa Claus: Part II* from Walter Knoll.**
Produced and published by the Duncan Royale studio, this illustrated hardbound volume brings to life world wide mythologies that explain the origin of the Santa Claus character. GO WK

Holiday dressing.
For him, Brooks Brothers' Christmas tie and suspenders, featuring Brooks' exclusive design of Santa on skates preparing to climb down your chimney. GO BR

For her, a little something red in soft, sensuous silk. From Inside * Outside Lingerie. GO IO

Here we come a caroling.
Sing a song of Christmas ... Select from George Winston's *December* on Windham Hill, Elvis' *Christmas Album, Christmas with Placido Domingo, James Galway's Christmas Carol, The Messiah* by The Morman Tabernacle Choir and many more. Available in CD or LP formats from Express Music. GO EMC

More pudding, please.
For an Olde English holiday tradition, order a plum pudding that contains only the finest ingredients and includes the traditional brandied hard sauce topping. Moist and mouth watering, each one-pound cake serves six to eight. From Pepperidge Farm. GO PF

This fruitcake commands respect. Chock-full of fruits and nuts, scrumptiously delicious, sinfully good, the perfect way to send season's greetings. From Simon David. GO SIM

Movie magic.
Curl up in front of the TV and pop a holiday movie in the VCR. Try *White Christmas, Holiday Inn, Going My Way, The Nutcracker* or *Santa Claus: The Movie*. From Magic Castle Video. GO MV

10

Ten floppy disks from
CDA Computer Sales

9

A nine-room English Tudor house from
Don's Dollhouse and Miniatures

8

Eight Victorian face masks from
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

"Oh Tannenbaum, Oh Tannenbaum ..."
A table-top spruce Christmas tree that will spread joy all through the holidays. Bedecked with candy canes, golden bells, tiny red spheres and a bright red bow. Each potted tree is 18 to 21 inches high. Please order by Dec. 4 to ensure timely delivery. From Pepperidge Farm. GO PF

Deck the halls.
Bring Christmas to your corridors with evergreen wreathes, potted poinsettias, cheery cherubs or silver bells. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

Away in a manger.
A complete nativity scene. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

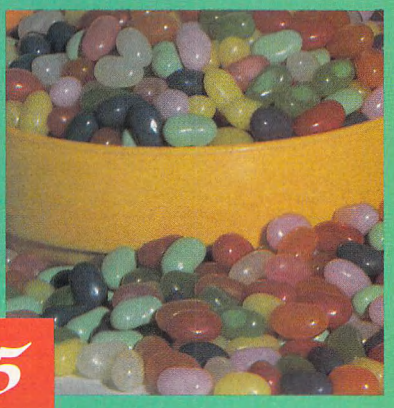
A holiday still life.
Enjoy these picturesque fruit baskets before holiday snackers remove them from the 'exhibit'. From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

7

Seven pairs of panties from
*Inside * Outside Lingerie*

6

Six Florida lobster tails from
Florida Fruit Shippers



5

Five pounds of Jelly Bellys from
Simon David

Stocking Stuffers

A gathering of 20 pint-sized presents perfect for tucking in the toe of someone's Christmas stocking.

- Silver-plated mustache brush from Inside* Outside Lingerie. GO IO
- Wooden loofah bath brush from B&K Beauty Supplies. GO BS
- One carat diamond earrings from Milkins Jewelers. GO MJ
- Black cotton bicycle gloves from Bike Barn. GO BB
- Silver-plated pin of "William," an Egyptian hippo, unofficial mascot of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA
- Sony Sports FM Walkman from Garden Camera & Electronics. GO GC
- Herringbone gold chain from The Gold Connection. GO GD
- "Be My Guest"® gift certificate from American Express. GO AXM
- Twin outlet power protector from Marymac Industries. GO MM
- Brass letter opener from J.E. Smith Brassware. GO JE
- Tele-Charge for tickets to *Phantom of the Opera*. GO TC
- A square-inch of paradise from Hawaiian Isle. GO HI
- Head cleaner for 5-1/4" disk from Marymac Industries. GO MM
- A rubber ducky from Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio. GO RR
- Godiva chocolate bars from Pepperidge Farm. GO PF
- Cross pen and pencil set from The Stationery Center. GO SC
- Personalized self-inking address stamp from Executive Stampers. GO EX
- Macadamia nut pack from Hawaiian Isles. GO HI
- Miniature furniture from Don's Dollhouse and Miniatures. GO DD
- Epyx 500XJ joystick from Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

All I want for Christmas ...

Make your list. Check it. Check it again. Take a seat at your keyboard. Summon The Mall's electronic Gift Giving Guide. You'll discover 400 original gift ideas—truly something for everyone. Browse by category. Search by price. From gourmet game meats to trivia games ... software to sportswear ... cuddly bears to pajamas for cuddling ... portable PCs to audio CDs ... literally everything from a Rolls Royce to your two front teeth. Prosperous shopping!

The Mall's guide to giving ... and getting.

1. The 12 Days of Christmas
   A dozen gifts of imagination
2. Pearls and other pleasures
   For the lady in your life
3. Beyond ties and cologne
   For the man in your life
4. Babes in toyland
   For tots, tykes and toddlers
5. Sugar and spice and everything nice
   Especially for little girls
6. Snakes and snails and puppy dog tails
   Especially for little boys
7. Teenage tickets to ride
   For the 12-to-21 set
8. Scrooge's source
   Everything under $10
9. Rudolph's ransom
   A grand or better
10. Visions of sugar plums
    Gourmet gifts and goodies
11. Out-of-the-ordinary offerings
    For the impossible-to-please
12. "For all that you do ..."
    For bosses and business associates

HOBBIES/TOYS

Games galore. Hundreds of games from leading manufacturers including Avalon Hill, FASA, Eon, Game Designers' Workshop, Marvel and Supremacy. A full line of *Dungeons & Dragons* products are featured. From TSR Hobby Shop. GO TSR

Made of maple hardwood, this 14-piece ark houses 16 pairs of animals, Noah and his family. From Waldenbooks. GO WB

Choose from a myriad of radio control vehicles ... a '57 Chevy ... a Porsche 944 ... a cabin cruiser ... an America's Cup 12-meter yacht. From Hobby Center Toys. GO HC

Mongoose Freestyle Bicycle for kids. From Bike Barn. GO BB

Madame Alexander Dolls, including Mother Goose, Pollyanna and Little Red Riding Hood. From The Doll Place. GO DO

TRAVEL/ENTERTAINMENT

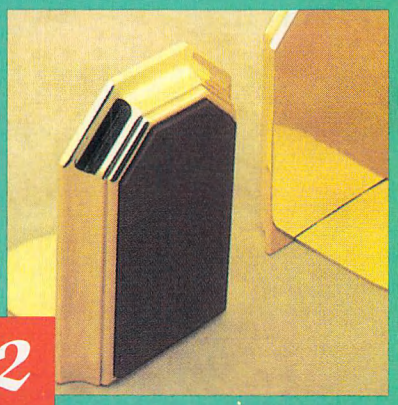
Springtime in Paris.
Book now to promise her Paris this spring. From Air France. GO AF

4

Four scrumptious tea loaves from *Pepperidge Farm*

3

Three Tahitian Islands from *Air France*



2

Two burgundy bookends *from J.E. Smith Brassware*

Brooks Brothers online.

One name more than any other connotes quality, style and tradition in menswear. That name is Brooks Brothers. Established in 1818, America's oldest retail store is proud to announce the opening of its Electronic Mall store. Stroll through the electronic doors and you'll discover a diverse selection of men's clothing and furnishings, as well as classic and contemporary clothing for women.

A rich camel hair blazer. Cashmere sweaters. Corduroy trousers. A Tartan robe. And, of course, the now classic button-down Polo collar shirt, a shirt first made famous by Brooks Brothers in the early 1900s. This is just a sample of the items showcased. Whatever your dress requirements, from casual wear to formal wear, Brooks Brothers can outfit you online.

Exclusively hers.

Brooks is for women, too. Described online is a collection of coat classics,

sweaters, skirts, shirts, blouses and sleepwear. Select simplicity and elegance, such as Brooks' silk crepe de Chine blouse in ivory. Wrap up in a cashmere sweater or a soft terry cloth robe. Ward off winter's chill with a reefer overcoat or a red, boiled wool jacket.

His and hers.

For holiday gift giving, Brooks Brothers is pleased to present a selection of gifts for him and for her. For him, consider Brooks' handsome alligator key fob and moneyclip, a sterling belt buckle or exclusive foxhead slippers. For her, choose a cashmere beret, mink ear muffs or velvet pumps. Or select something suitable for anyone, such as a leather writing portfolio, a paperweight or the perennially popular Brooks Brothers gift certificate.

Blue box, golden promise.

Any item ordered online will arrive handsomely packaged in the famous Brooks Brothers blue box. For years, the Brooks box has signified a carefully selected gift of quality, craftsmanship and taste.

Brooks Brothers also makes a golden promise to you, its valued customer. Brooks Brothers guarantees, without reservation, all of its merchandise. If, for any reason, you are not pleased with your purchase, you may return it for a full refund or replacement.

Brooks Brothers invites you to become acquainted with America's oldest and most respected retail store. Browse the online offerings. Request your free colorful Christmas catalog full of merchandise that can be ordered electronically. Finally, you're invited to become a preferred charge customer by requesting a Brooks Brothers charge account application online.

For correct dressing day or night, GO BR.

1

And a basket of holiday cheer from *Lincoln Manor Baskets*

Good health to go–from General Nutrition Corp.

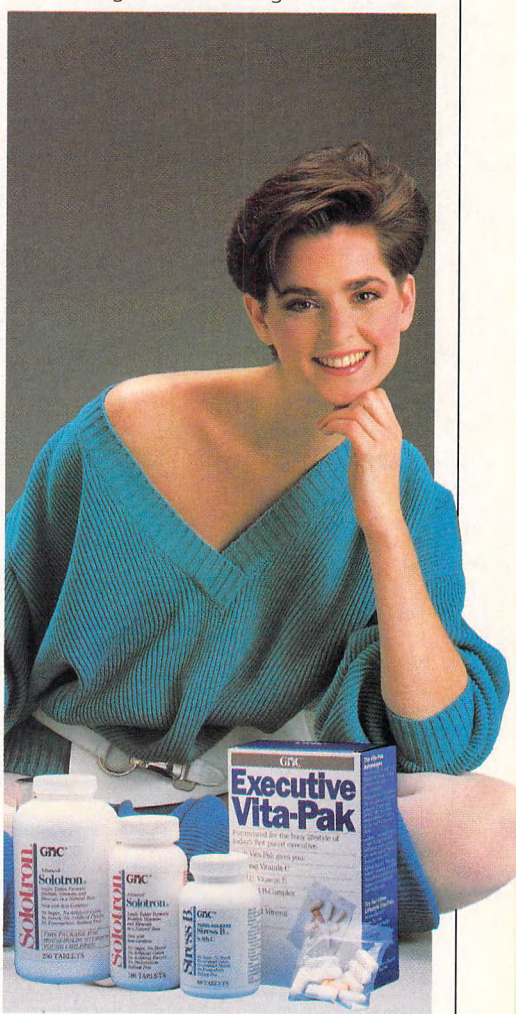
General Nutrition Corp. (GNC), America's leading nutritional supplier, is in the business of helping you lead a healthier life. Now, through its Electronic Mall store, GNC offers you quality products at the lowest possible prices, backed by the GNC money-back guarantee.

Vitamins and minerals...cosmetics... exercise tapes. Give your fingers a workout browsing GNC's online selection. Featured products include daily multiple vitamins, minerals, childrens' vitamins and Vita Packs, as well as individual supplements such as calcium, potassium and zinc. To aid you in selecting the right supplements , the health benefits of each vitamin are explained online.

Other products featured online include Aloe Vera moisturizing cream, a sunless tanning lotion and Bruce Jenner's *Winning Workout* Video.

GNC offers all shoppers a free catalog and invites you to send your nutrition questions electronically. In the business of bringing you better health for more than half a century, GNC represents Q.S.S.P.—quality, selection, service, price.

For good health to go, GO GN.



A moveable feast. Dozens of delectable goodies await you at Pepperidge Farm's new Mall store.

For more than 15 years, Pepperidge Farm has been preparing and shipping gourmet gifts for its customers. Brownies bake, soups simmer, and popcorn pops in the renowned Pepperidge Farm country kitchens.

Visit Pepperidge Farm online and enjoy more than a pound of *Pfeffernuese* (a classic Christmas cookie) ... a quartet of

liqueured snack spreads ... a six-pack of seafood soups.

Or request a free copy of Pepperidge Farm's 40-page catalog.

Treats for cookie monsters.

Cookie *aficionados* will applaud Pepperidge Farm's selection. The Deluxe Distinctive Cookie Tin is brimming with nine varieties of old favorites, including Milano, Capri and Brussels. The Country Cookie Collection boasts 11 kinds of Pepperidge Farm's country-style cookies. The Christmas Cheer Cookie Tin is a delicious way to say "Happy Holidays."

Chocoholics will delight in a Pepperidge Farm collection of chocolate-

covered cookies. Other chocolate fixes featured include sinful squares, a round of fudge and the true connoisseur's chocolate, Godiva. Made from master Belgian recipes, selections include the distinctive Golden Ballotin gift box and a sample of Godiva chocolate bars, just right for stuffing Christmas stockings.

Soups, snacks, goodies and munch, munch more.

What better way to warm an icy winter night than with a steamy bowl of soup? Tempting selections await you online. Among them is a seafood soup gift pack—a catch that nets you six varieties—including fisherman's chowder, lobster bisque and oyster stew. The gourmet collection, a dozen cans of everything from corn chowder to black bean with sherry to bacon, lettuce and tomato, is also a soup lover's treat.

Finally, for a belly-warmer that lasts all season long, try Pepperidge Farm's yard of soup featuring 14 favorites.

Weekend breakfast gift packs for family and friends ... an Old World stolen for Christmas morn ... cheese'n crackers'n nuts ... pretzels ... popcorn ... and more! For a truly moveable feast, GO PF.

Stage a multi-media event on your microcomputer.

With the new Virtuoso™ software from Virtusonics, the owners of Atari 8-bit and Commodore 64 and 128 machines are empowered to combine words, music and graphics in the same multi-media resource.

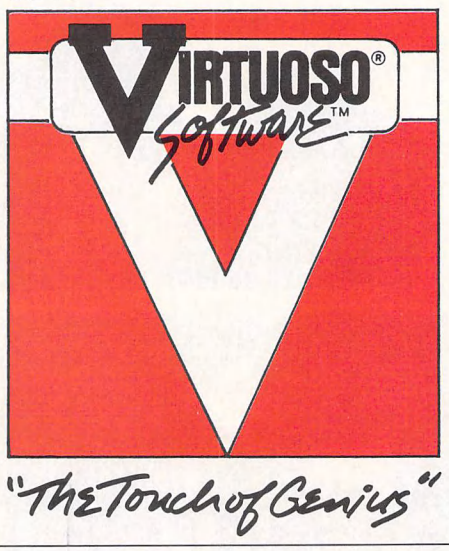
You animate the imagery. Compose or adapt the score. In essence, you stage the event.

Create a talking book. Conceive and direct a music video. Produce an action adventure. Write a sci-fi cartoon. Compose an operatic score. If you can scheme it, Virtusonics has the capital for your venture. With features such as:

- full-color graphics
- synchronized animation
- user-specified running lengths
- music composition and control
- integrated graphic and music libraries
- frame-by-frame printouts
- and telecommunications software

Virtuoso instructions and help are menu-driven to simplify your introduction to this powerful hybrid medium. And a 24-hour customer support hotline, accessible via Virtusonics' Mall store menu, means you'll get fast answers to key questions when "the show must go on."

Get into show business ... and save. As a Mall shopper, you can acquire Virtuoso for the discounted price of $49.95. GO VC



Warehouse prices for computer products with online convenience.

In the market for a laptop? Take a look at the Computer Discount Warehouse selection, including models from AST, AT&T, Toshiba and Wyse. Been thinking about bumping up your baud rate? Consider a 1200- or 2400-baud modem from Everex, Hayes or US Robotics—discounted, of course. Bored to death waiting for your daisy wheel or dot matrix printer to do the job? Investigate the new Hewlett-Packard Laserjet Series II printer online.

Whatever your needs—modems to monitors—Computer Discount Warehouse can fill them ... at a discount. Whether you're outfitting an office or creating a personal computer nook at home, shopping Computer Discount Warehouse can substantially trim your shopping time and budget outlay. Unsure about what to buy? Need technical support? Talk to store manager Glenn Hall, either by toll-free telephone or online via EasyPlex.

For savings on computers, monitors, printers and more, GO CD.

Graphic design support you summon with a keyboard.

If you publish newsletters, design brochures, or assemble major presentations, you owe it to yourself to discover Butler Graphics.

A progressive type and design service, Butler Graphics is completely computerized and features the latest in laser printing equipment. Your file can be typeset overnight for 30 to 70 percent less than conventional typesetting costs.

Butler Graphics offers custom typesetting services for an assortment of applicable software. Visit them online and request a free brochure, which lists all available typefaces.

To celebrate their grand opening on The Mall, Butler Graphics offers this special welcome. For a limited time, the one-time new customer set-up charge of $35 will be reduced by the amount of your first order. If your job cost exceeds $35, the set-up charge will be eliminated.

Questions about Butler Graphics' services? Contact them via EasyPlex. They'll gladly quote a job for you—at no charge—and electronically review your unique type and design needs. GO PRT

Take control of your personal computer with Time-Life Books.

Still perplexed by your personal computer? Worse yet, are you hopelessly hooked, but still have family and friends suffering from cases of acute paranoia?

Fear not.

Understanding Computers, Time-Life Books' colorful new library series, lets you learn computer literacy at your own pace.

Order the introductory volume to the series, *Computer Basics*, online. Here, at last, is a book that explains clearly and concisely what a computer is ... how it works ... and what a miniature computer can do for you.

As a special premium, you'll receive an eight-digit, full-function Compu-A-Lator. It looks like a miniature personal computer, functions as a calculator and easily rides in your purse or pocket.

Examine *Computer Basics*, at no cost and no obligation, for 10 days. If you don't feel you've begun to understand computers, simply return the book and owe nothing.

With your purchase of *Computer Basics*, for only $14.99 plus shipping and handling*, you'll become a subscriber to *Understanding Computers* and receive future volumes in the series. They'll come to your home by mail, one at a time, approximately every other month ... always on the same 10 day free examination basis.

There's no minimum number of books to buy, and you keep only those volumes you and your family want. You may cancel your subscription at any time, for any reason.

To take advantage of this offer, GO TL.

*Prices are subject to change.

TIME LIFE BOOKS

The best, the only, the unexpected.

Established in 1848, Hammacher Schlemmer has maintained a long-standing tradition of specializing in those items that are the only ones that can do what they do or that are the best in their class based on comparison testing. Such once-exotic products as the original steam iron, the pop-up toaster, the portable radio and the microwave oven were first seen in America on the shelves of Hammacher Schlemmer's store on 57th St. in New York City.

Always an innovator, Hammacher Schlemmer is proud to open its electronic doors at The Mall. Browse their electronic catalog featuring gifts for one and all.

For dear old Dad, consider the lighted electric tie rack, the two-way indoor putting green or the travel environmental sound machine ... Remember Mom with the best home juice extractor, the best table radio or the smallest flat-folding umbrella.

Surprise the person who has everything with his/her own radio-controlled America's Cup yacht, the only thermographic wristwatch or the tabletop wine preservation system.

Shoppers are also invited to order their free copy of Hammacher Schlemmer's Christmas catalog. It's full of gift-giving ideas, all of which can be ordered online. To shop for the unique and the unusual, GO HS.

To broadway and beyond with Tele-Charge.

This January, London's hottest ticket becomes Broadway's most dazzling new show when Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* crosses the Atlantic and opens at The Majestic Theatre in New York. Be there as the curtain goes up. Call Tele-Charge today.

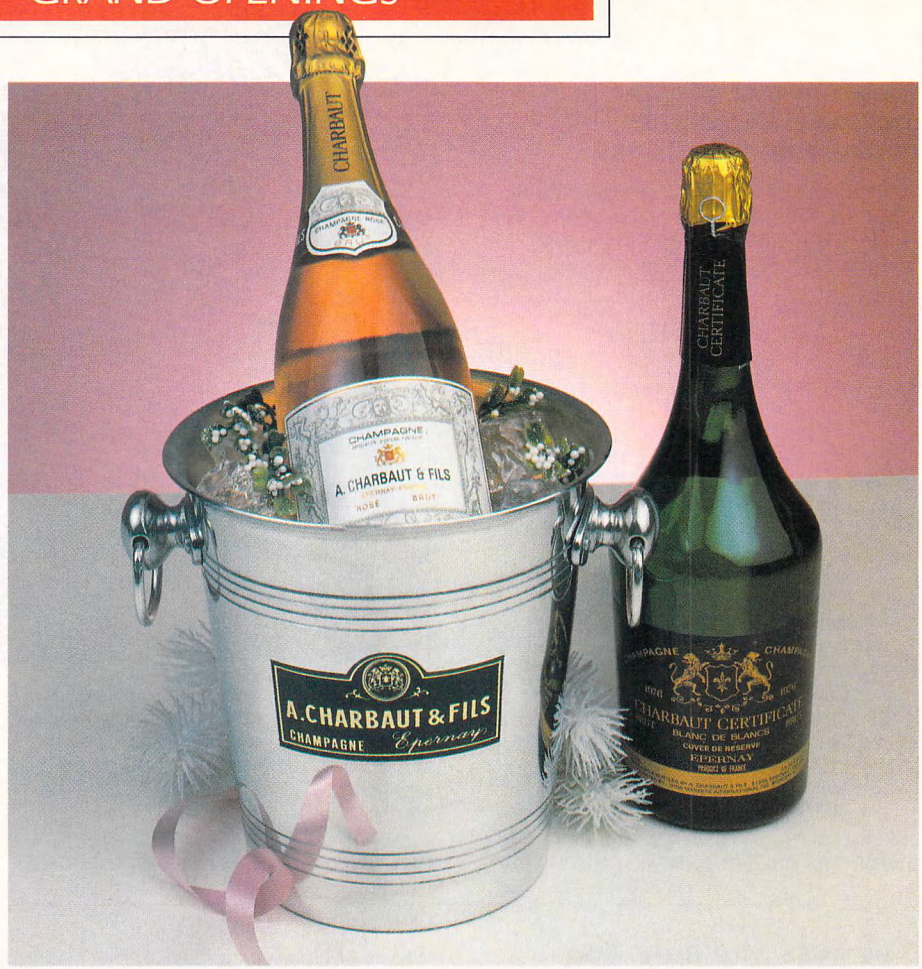
Tele-Charge, The Shubert Organization's toll-free ticket service for Shubert theatres in New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington D.C., Philadelphia and Los Angeles, is now pleased to announce its newest opening ... online at The Mall.

CompuServe subscribers are invited to visit Tele-Charge for up-to-the-moment news on current shows and coming attractions, ticket prices, performance schedules and capsule descriptions are all listed. Choose a long-running modern-day classic like Andrew Lloyd Webber's stage spectacular *Cats* or Michael Bennett's masterpiece *A Chorus Line*, now in its twelfth year. Take in an off-broadway comedy like *Little Shop of Horrors*. Or book now for the sensation of the 1988 season, *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Ask about the next available date for last year's smash hit *Les Miserables*. This dazzling spectacular will soon open in Boston and Los Angeles. Details and dates can be found online.

Tele-Charge's toll-free number, listed online, makes purchasing tickets easy. Now, you can order gift certificates for tickets online; soon, you'll be able to order tickets directly. All major credit cards are accepted. EasyPlex inquiries regarding group sales are welcome as well. Why not plan a group excursion to New York this Christmas season? Catch a matinee. Take in the city sights and holiday lights.

For the best in musicals, drama and comedy, on Broadway and across the country, GO TC.



A toast to the season from Morrell & Co.

For more than 40 years, astute New Yorkers have discovered and rediscovered Morrell & Co., an old-fashioned wine merchant that holds true to top value without sacrificing quality or service. Just in time for holiday gift giving, champagne tipping and wine sipping, this Madison Avenue merchant is opening its doors—and cellars—online.

Take an online taste tour and discover some of the most touted wines and champagnes available. For more than two generations, Morrell has been laboring in the vineyards of the world, testing both bouquet and flavor on behalf of thousands of consumers who appreciate a good glass of wine. Visit the online cellar and you'll tour many of the world's finest wine regions. Morrell's knowledgeable sales staff is happy to assist you in selecting just the perfect wine. Simply send Morrell an EasyPlex with your questions regarding a particular vintage or year and you'll receive a prompt, informed response. Nobody knows wine better.

A bit of the bubbly.

Champagnes are also showcased online; many are packaged in attractive gift presentations. From prestigious champagnes to assortments, from cases to a single rare bottle, the source is Morrell.

Sorry, delivery restrictions apply—orders can be delivered only within New York state. However, subscribers outside of New York state can order champagnes and wines as gifts for family, friends and relatives residing in New York state, provided that order amounts do not exceed $200. It's the perfect way for West Coast offices to send seasonal cheer to New York compatriots. Orders of more than $200 can be placed within New York state only.

For the best in holiday spirits, GO MC.

Macro values at micro prices.

Just opened online, Nitro Micro stocks Amiga, AST, AT&T, Panasonic, Toshiba and Zenith computers and computer products at low prices.

You'll find internal PC cards, hard disk drives and hard cards, monitors, modems, printers and software from leading manufacturers at competitive prices. Selected merchandise is also featured each month at rock-bottom prices.

Nitro Micro's staff is an EasyPlex or a toll-free phone call away. An inventory of thousands of items and a free catalog streamline the search for hard-to-find items. To request your catalog and take an online tour of the store, GO NT.

SPOTLIGHT

Max Ule: America's premier online discount broker.
Meet Max Ule, the nation's pioneer in electronic brokerage services. Max, a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Business School and a discount broker since 1972, became the first broker to offer online trading on CompuServe in 1984.

Operating out of a townhouse in New York City, Max Ule has direct wires to all of the major exchanges and online link-up to his clients worldwide. "Utilizing technology, we are able to provide the finest in state-of-the-art service to investors at a substantial savings," Ule says.

"We offer our clients complete stock, bond and option trading," Ule continues. "We'll execute all types of orders, including market orders or limit orders. We also offer trading in both broad- and narrow-based stock market index options, zero coupon bonds and mutual funds. Recently, we've begun

handling select new issues and we will gladly send interested clients electronic bulletins on these as well."

Max Ule has long been an innovator in the online brokerage business. Two time-saving services introduced by Ule, and currently available to all of his CompuServe clients, are Tickerscreen and BAWD.

Tickerscreen provides closing New York Stock Exchange prices, market averages and more, enabling investors to monitor the market at their leisure. BAWD offers a new time-saving method of settling brokerage transactions electronically through a direct connection with your bank.

"We invite all investors—first-timers and veterans alike—to visit us at The Mall. Online, you can request a free application and prospectus for a myriad of services," Ule says.

Max Ule and Co. is a division of Ingham, Becker and Co. Inc., members of the National Association of Securities Dealers. To visit Max Ule in The Mall, GO MU.

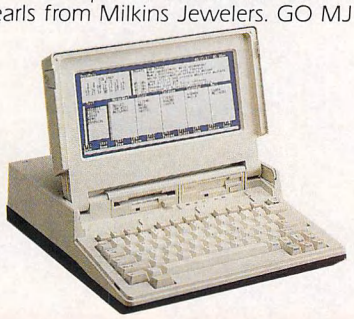
WINDOWS ON THE MALL

APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

Chesterfield 100 percent cashmere top coat. Available in camel, charcoal gray and navy from Apparel Concepts for Men. GO APC

Gitman Bros. pinpoint oxford shirt from Apparel Concepts for Men. GO APC

An opulent necklace of cultured pearls from Milkins Jewelers. GO MJ



COMPUTING

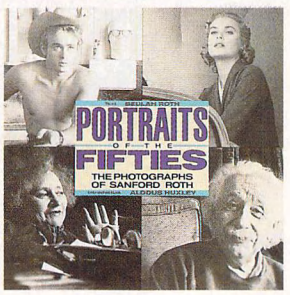
Tandy 1400LT MS-DOS Laptop Computer from Marymac Industries. GO MM

The Wizard of Wall Street. IBM software from Investment Software. GO IS

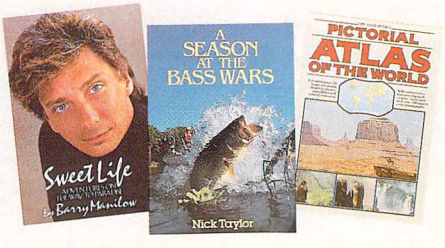
T-Shirt Shop Software for the Apple from Spinnaker. Print your own personalized T-shirts. From Computer Express. GO CE

Room to grow with the Apple IIgs. Take a bite out of the new Apple at CDA Computer Sales. GO CDA

BOOKS/PERIODICALS



A collection of 100 portraits of American and European intellectuals, artists and movie stars taken during the 1950s by the world-class photographer Sanford Roth. From Mercury House. GO MER



The McGraw-Hill Pictorial Atlas, The Bass Wars, Barry Manilow's *Sweet Life* and many more books, videos and audio cassettes. From McGraw-Hill Book Co. GO MH

Tasco Zoom Microscope from Waldenbooks. GO WB

GIFTS/NOVELTIES

Decorative hat boxes filled with potpourri and pine cones. From Lincoln Manor Baskets. GO LM

GOURMET/FLOWERS

Not there to share this year's turkey? Send Thanksgiving Day specials from Fifth Avenue Shopper's Flower and Fruit Shop. GO FTH

Gourmet coffees for every taste. Choose from dozens of blends, including Italian Espresso, Jamaican Blue Mountain, Mocha Java and Viennese. Select decaffeinated or other, more stimulating blends. Or mix and match your own custom sampler pack. From Coffee Emporium. GO COF

A bushel of Duncan grapefruit. Rare and sweet—a true treat. From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

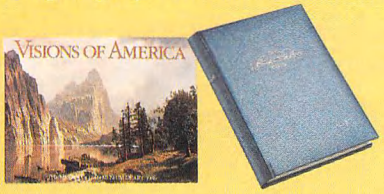
An 18-soup salute. A gift grand enough for an admiral ... 18 different kinds of soup on board, including lobster bisque; oyster stew; green pea with ham and sherry; and bacon, lettuce and tomato. From Pepperidge Farm. GO PF

Lady in red. Lady's jacket in soft, supple red leather. Imprinted with a crocodile. From American Express. GO AXM

Pet palace. This Christmas, why not treat Rover or Fritz to a pet pillow? Available in three sizes and a variety of colors, each pillow comes with an inner and outer zip lining for easy cleaning. To pamper your pet with nothing but the best, GO PW.

A home-grown hobby. Complete bonsai tree hobby kit. Grow your own miniature Japanese juniper. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

Staying up-to-date: Calendars for 1988.



Visions of America. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

Van Gogh in Saint Remy and Auvers. Includes 56 full-color illustrations. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

The Brooks Brothers 1988 Desk Diary. Brooks Brothers will gladly initial each calendar with gold leaf—gratis. GO BR

The Garfield 1988 Desk Calendar —The Year of the Party. From Ballantine Books. GO BAL

The 1988 Robotech Wall Calendar: From Ballantine Books. GO BAL

The 1988 J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar. A 50th anniversary celebration of *The Hobbit*. Featuring four of Tolkien's paintings that appeared in the book's first edition. From Ballantine Books. GO BAL

Scenes from Hawaii's sands: These calendars capture the Islands' exotic allure. Choose from **Island Girls, Island Men, Hawaii's Beautiful Women, Hawaii: The Big Island, Maui, Waikiki, Kauai and Hawaiian Flowers.** From Hawaiian Isle. GO HI

Calling all couch potatoes. This Two-Potato Clock runs on your spuds' carbohydrate power. No batteries necessary. From Waldenbooks. GO WB

Stick 'em up. Glue gun kit. From Black & Decker Powerline Network. GO BD

A kennel club favorite. These collector Christmas tins come filled with goodies for your pet. Feline friends delight in a stocking stuffed with 18 oz. of Haute Feline Treats, a toy mouse and catnip ball. Canine companions enjoy 18 oz. of Haute Canine Treats, a doggy toy and rawhide chews in their stockings. From Lincoln Manor Baskets. GO LM

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Walt Disney's *Lady & The Tramp*. Beta or VHS. Only $28.75. GO MV

Star Trek IV is here. Beta or VHS. Only $28.75. Also, 10 more Star Trek TV Episodes are now available. Each is only $14.95. From Magic Castle Video. GO MV

Wild game gift pack. From Simon David. GO SIM

The Jewish Book of Days. Contains charts with the Jewish holidays and calendars through the year 2000. Illustrated in four-color. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

Advanced CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. By Charles Bowen and David Peyton. From Waldenbooks. GO WB

Gourmet tropical fruit and seafood club. Surprise someone again and again with the best in citrus fruit, tropical fruit and Florida seafood, when you join this club that sends you 18 gourmet gift packs. From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

Cole Haan genuine crocodile shoes. Handcrafted in Italy. From Apparel Concepts for Men. GO APC

Steiff's original teddy bear. Soft and cuddly, a must for every collector. From Hobby Center Toys. GO HC

Echelon software for the Commodore 64. Flight simulation program. Includes "Lipstick" headset. You control the fire option. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

Pig Mania dice game. From TSR Hobby Shop. GO TSR

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

AT&T Model 5500 answering system. GO ATT

Workmate 300 work center. From Black & Decker Powerline Network. GO BD

MUSIC/MOVIES

Make your own music. Keyboards, synthesizers, MIDI sequencers, amps and speaker systems ... all from leading manufacturers and all at discount prices. From Music Alley Online. GO MAO

PREMIUM MERCHANTS

Hugster® Hugger Cub. A plush child's sleeping bag disguised as a bear. From American Express. GO AXM

Locomotive toy box. From American Express. GO AXM

SPORTS/LEISURE

The Floating Fone: The most talked-about present for pool owners. From Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio. GO RR

FUN AND GAMES

Mixed-up Mall Merchant Maze.
OK, shoppers ... here's your chance to win a $12.50 usage credit from CompuServe. Simply unscramble the following names of five Mall merchants. Submit your solutions via the official electronic entry form found under "Fun & Games" in the online edition of *Go Mall* (GO GMO). Entries will be accepted beginning 6 p.m. EST Nov. 1. The first 10 subscribers with the correct answers will be awarded a $12.50 usage credit. It's that easy. Good luck!

1. LIIIENHAAAWS
(Hint: two words)
2. ENENSTW
3. YEIOUNMNLLCLEASI
(Hint: three words)
4. OVAONTSIUI
5. TTSSIIGXRASAFENVS
(Hint: three words)

Unwrap the American Express mystery gifts.
Beginning Nov. 2, each Mall shopper will have the chance to win one of 50 holiday gifts from American Express by playing The American Express Holiday Contest.

To enter, simply guess what's inside American Express' three holiday boxes. You'll find clues to the contents of the mystery gifts online. (Hint: All of the holiday gifts were selected from the variety of quality items in the American Express Merchandise Shop.) The first 49 subscribers with the correct answers will win American Express solar calculators, and the lucky 50th winner will win the grand prize—the contents of all three boxes!

Be sure to browse the American Express electronic catalog of gifts, too. You'll discover everything from a Lenox china plate to a gold-plated vanity set. Discover state-of-the-art electronics and more. And don't forget to order your free copy of the American Express Christmas catalog. Everything featured in print can also be ordered online.

For your chance to win in the American Express Holiday Contest, and for complete rules, GO AXM.

Win the gift of gab.
At AT&T's Mall store, subscribers have a chance to win a package of five AT&T $5 gift certificates every month. For your chance, simply type GO ATT and enter the monthly search contest. Each month, five clues are scattered throughout the AT&T search database. Be the first subscriber to enter the correct answers on the contest page, and you win.

While visiting AT&T's Mall store you'll also want to browse the online catalog of products and services, take advantage of the interactive search services and request free copies of any of the AT&T brochures. GO ATT.

Don't miss the mistletoe planted by Walter Knoll.
Once again this year Walter Knoll Florist is bringing mistletoe to The Mall. Every week between Nov. 1 and Dec. 25 Walter Knoll will hide an electronic mistletoe somewhere in its database. Each week, the first subscriber to find the mistletoe and send Walter Knoll an EasyPlex message with its location will receive a giant Hershey's Chocolate Kiss. Visit Walter Knoll for details ... and be sure to order real mistletoe online. Each festively decorated sprig is guaranteed to last through New Year's Eve. For your chance to win a caloric kiss, GO WK.

MALL DIRECTORY

APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

APC Apparel Concepts for Men ■
GD The Gold Connection
BR Brooks Brothers ■ †
IO Inside * Outside Lingerie ■ *
MJ Milkins Jewelers ■

AUTO

AV AutoVision
BU Buick Magazine ■
CHV Chevy Showroom ■
DU Dutchess CompuLease
FMC Ford Motor Co. ■

BOOKS/PERIODICALS

BAL Ballantine Books
DJ Dow Jones & Co.
MH The McGraw-Hill Book Co.
MER Mercury House
BK Small Computer Book Club
TL Time-Life Books †
WB Waldenbooks

COMPUTING

ATN Aaxion Tech Network ■
PRT Butler Graphics †
CDA CDA Computer Sales ■ *
CD Computer Discount Warehouse †
CE Computer Express *●
GL Great Lakes Business Forms
HTH The Heath Co. ■
IBM IBM Canada Ltd.
IS Investment Software ■
MM Marymac Industries Inc.
MNU Menu International
NT Nitro Micro ■ †
SAF Safeware ■ †
SDA Software Discounters of America
VC Virtusonics †

FINANCIAL

INC Business Incorporating Guide
HRB H&R Block
MU Max Ule Discount Brokerage

GIFTS/NOVELTIES

BG BannerGram by Mail
HI Hawaiian Isle
JE J.E. Smith Brassware
LM Lincoln Manor Baskets
TF Tooth Fairyland

GOURMET/FLOWERS

COF Coffee Emporium ■
FTH Fifth Avenue Shopper
FFS Florida Fruit Shippers ■
PF Pepperidge Farm ■ †
SIM Simon David
WK Walter Knoll Florist ●

HEALTH/BEAUTY

BS B&K Beauty Supplies
GN General Nutrition Corporation †

HOBBIES/TOYS

DD Don's Dollhouse & Miniatures *●
HC Hobby Center Toys
DO The Doll Place
TSR TSR Hobby Shop ■ *

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

ATT AT&T
BD Black & Decker Powerline Network *●
ORD CompuServe Store
CFD Crutchfield ■
GC Garden Camera & Electronics *
SV StereoVideo Factory

MUSIC/MOVIES

BMG BMG Direct Marketing, Inc.
EMC Express Music *
MV Magic Castle Video
MAO Music Alley Online

OFFICE SUPPLIES

EX Executive Stamper
OM Office Machines & Supplies ■ *
SC Stationery Center ●

ONLINE SERVICES

EF EF Hutton ■
NN NewsNet
OA Official Airline Guides, Inc. ■

PREMIUM MERCHANTS

AXM American Express Merchandise ■
HS Hammacher Schlemmer ■ †
MMA Metropolitan Museum of Art *
MC Morrell and Company †

SPORTS/LEISURE

BB Bike Barn
RR Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio ■

TRAVEL/ENTERTAINMENT

AF Air France ■
AT Ameropa Travel ■
TC Tele-Charge—Theatre tickets †

■ Offers free print catalog.
* Denotes electronic order form for use with print catalog.
● Credits cost of print catalog toward purchase.
† Denotes new merchant.

HOW TO ORDER

Shopping The Mall.

Ordering from The Electronic Mall is easy. Each time you enter a Mall store, a personal order file, much like an electronic shopping cart, is opened for you. Browse a store's database, and when you see a product you would like to buy, type the letter "O" and the order will be placed in your file, similar to selecting an item from a store's shelf and placing it in your cart.

You can order directly from the product description page — there is no need to return to a store's top menu. You can order one item or a dozen. When you type "O," the system does not complete your order; it only registers your desire to make a purchase.

Checking out.

To complete your order, you must "check out." You can do this by typing CHECKOUT, the GO command of the next store you wish to visit or any command that takes you elsewhere on CompuServe. This tells the system you are ready to complete the order and presents two options:

1. Cancel your order by typing EXIT.
2. Complete your order by responding to a series of prompts for additional information.

When you have supplied the necessary information, you will receive an order summary. You now have the chance to change part or all of your order. For example, if you've ordered three books but decide you only want two of them, you can delete one book from your order. Or maybe you would like to have your order shipped to your office instead of your home. You can make that change, too.

Once you've made any changes, you again will have the chance to review your order. When you confirm the order as correct, you will receive an order confirmation number. *At this point, your order is complete.* It is sent electronically to the Mall merchant's CompuServe mailbox for processing. The order process is the same for every Mall merchant, but methods of payment and delivery may differ. If you have questions regarding your order, it is best to contact the merchant directly by using the customer service information provided within each store.

GOINGS ON—AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER						
1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	**14**
15	16	**17**	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	**26**	**27**	**28**
29	30					

DECEMBER						
		1	2	3	**4**	**5**
6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
13	14	**15**	**16**	17	**18**	19
20	21	22	23	**24**	**25**	**26**
27	28	29	30	31		

Nov. 1
- Plan a winter getaway ... request free travel brochures from Air France and Ameropa Travel. GO AF, GO AT
- Mixed-up Merchant contest begins.

Nov. 2
- Don't forget ... the first 500 shoppers to purchase $50 worth of merchandise in The Mall during a 24-hour period receive a $5 usage credit.

Nov. 14
- Only 960 more shopping hours until Christmas.

Nov. 15
- Last day to order electronically from the Metropolitan Museum of Art for Dec. 1 delivery. GO MMA

Nov. 17
- Order your free Christmas catalog from The Stationery Center. GO SC
- Request your free copy of the American Express Christmas catalog. GO AXM
- Before you forget ... pick up some cookies from Pepperidge Farm to leave for Santa. GO PF

Nov. 26
- Shop the entire Mall free of connect charges. GO MALL*

Nov. 27
- Mall-wide free connect day. GO MALL*

Nov. 28
- Waldenbooks free connect day. GO WB*

Nov. 29
- Waldenbooks free connect day. GO WB*

Dec. 1
- New AT&T search contest begins. GO ATT

Dec. 4
- Final day to order from Pepperidge Farm for pre-Christmas delivery. GO PF

Dec. 5
- Waldenbooks free connect day. GO WB*

Dec. 9
- Remember to scan Walter Knoll Florist for the hidden mistletoe—and win a chocoholic's dream Kiss. GO WK

Dec. 15
- Hanukkah begins at sundown.

Dec. 16
- Gourmet meats ordered from Simon David can be at your back door before Christmas. GO SIM

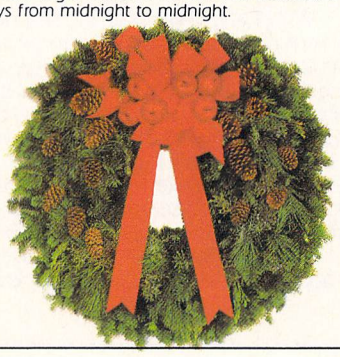
Dec. 18
- It's not too late to order gourmet coffees from The Coffee Emporium as a warming Christmas gift ... Two-day delivery is guaranteed. GO COF

Dec. 24
- Prepare a cookies-and-milk snack for Santa.

Dec. 25
- Merry Christmas!

Dec. 26
- Why not buy yourself what you really wanted for Christmas? GO MALL

*Please remember that for Mall promotions that include free connect time, all applicable communications surcharges remain in effect. Free connect is always from midnight to midnight.



COMING SOON

Here are seven reasons to keep a close watch on Mall activity during the holiday season. All of these retailers hope to swing open their doors in time for Christmas orders. Watch the "What's New at the Mall" area and *Go Mall* Electronic Edition for the announcement of ribbon-cutting ceremonies!

JC Penney Travel

Book your vacation with JC Penney Travel and you book with confidence. Work with travel professionals among the best in the business. Deal with the most respected names in travel. Count on the buying strength of JC Penney for competitive fares on Hawaiian Great Vacations, Caribbean getaways, Holland America and Royal Caribbean cruises and other fabulous destinations.

Diner's Club

Discover the distinct advantage of Diner's Club, the card that gives you something special just for doing business as usual. In their Club Rewards program, every eligible dollar you charge on the Diner's Club card works towards extra frequent flyer program mileage or free gifts — electronics, jewelry, tours abroad and more.

Petworks

This full-service pet shop offers only the best in pet supplies — featuring products for cats, dogs, birds and fish. Home veterinary handbooks, litter boxes, carrying cases, flea sprays, vitamin supplements and more are yours through Petworks — your online partner in pet care.

Moment's Notice

Leading tour operators, airlines, and cruise ships rely on Moment's Notice and similar services to help fill what would otherwise be empty seats, berths and hotel rooms. On a moment's notice. New cruises, airline packages and getaway vacations join the Moment's Notices' list of drop-what-you're-doing opportunities every day.

R+R Direct

This merchant supplies communication solutions through a full line of computer supplies and accessories (IBM and compatibles) as well as telephones and communications systems and software for IBM, Apple and Macintosh hardware. All product sales are backed by strong online technical support.

Time, Inc.

Subscribe online to publications such as *Time, Life* and *Money* at discounts unavailable offline. With your orders, you'll also receive free gifts.

Tips for Talking on CB Simulator

CompuServe's CB Simulator holds a fascination for new subscribers. There is a good reason for the interest.

CompuServe's CB is an exciting way of getting together with people around the world. Of all the services CompuServe offers, the CB simulator has drawn perhaps the most media attention. And because of that promotion and the possibilities of such communications, a substantial number of people with computers have subscribed to CompuServe to communicate via the CB Simulator.

But that first visit to CB can be disorienting for the unprepared. Unlike most areas of CompuServe where the system waits patiently for the user to type a command or a line of text, the CB Simulator waits for no one. Messages whiz across the screen. Veteran CBers are used to seeing new subscribers type "HELP" as their first CB message.

It helps new CB users to know exactly what is happening on the CB channels before entering the area. It is also important to know that although the message you may be typing appears to be interrupted by messages from other users, it will be all in one piece when it appears on the channel.

When typing a message to send to others, you are initially typing the characters into a "buffer" on the CompuServe computer running the CB communications program. Only when you press the Return key does the CompuServe computer release your message for viewing on that channel.

If you have the ECHO turned on while using CB, you'll actually see each character as you type it. If others are sending messages, these characters often will be interspersed in the messages of other users. This gives the false impression that your message is being garbled and is garbling someone else's message. It is an illusion. The system is showing you the characters you have typed into the CB computer's buffer.

To see precisely what you've typed before you send it, enter a [CONTROL-V] by pressing the Control and V keys at the same time. The message will be displayed so you can inspect it before you send it.

What if you decide you don't want to send the message after you've typed it? To erase the message from the buffer, type [CONTROL-U] to start again.

If you don't want to see the characters you are typing echoed on the screen as you type them, you can use the /NOECHO command to turn off the character echo. The first time you see what you type will be when you press the Return key. This command is especially advantageous for good typists who do not have to see what they are typing to be accurate.

Those who plan to communicate frequently on the CB Simulator might consider purchasing a terminal program with a "split screen" function. Split screen terminal programs are available for nearly every major brand of computer.

The split screen terminal program creates a sort of buffer in your computer in which you type your message before it is sent to CompuServe. That message is displayed in a portion of your screen (usually the bottom) as you create it. You can usually use your Backspace key and other standard editing keys to edit the message before sending it.

Meanwhile, in the other portion of the screen, you can see what others are saying as you compose your own thoughts for transmission at a more relaxed pace. Then, when you have the message exactly the way you want it, you press the Return key and the entire message is sent at once from your computer's buffer, along with a carriage return at the end of it so it will appear on the CB channel.

To find out what split screen terminal programs are available for your computer, check with the experts in the CompuServe forum that supports your brand of computer. You may find such terminal programs available for downloading in that forum's data libraries.

CompuServe has a special offer for frequent users of the CB Simulator. The CB Club is an optional pricing plan that allows subscribers to use CB at a special hourly rate after paying a flat monthly fee.

There are other advantages to joining the CB Club, such as a reserved handle on CB. For more information about the CB Club, type GO CBCLUB at any system prompt.

And to learn more about CB and the commands you can use in that service, type GO CB at any system prompt. When you're in the CB Simulator and you need to review the available commands quickly, type /HELP on a new line to see the list of commands available to you.

If you would like to have an overview of the CB Simulator in print form, you can order *Let's Talk: The CB Simulator Users Guide* from the Service-Specific Guides section of CompuServe's Online Ordering Service. To get there, type GO ORDER at any system prompt.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* Advanced CompuServe for IBM Power Users. *His CompuServe ID number is 76703,244.*

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Games, Utilities Among New Files

The data libraries in CompuServe's forums are filled with thousands of programs and textfiles. The following are a few of the files uploaded to the data libraries in recent months. For a more up-to-date list of uploads, check the "Uploads" columns in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-3700 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt. New columns are added twice monthly.

AMIGA FORUM
(GO AMIGAFORUM)

Amiga RAM Disk—This file creates an icon for a RAM (random access memory) disk and opens the RAM disk for usage. Includes documentation on how to do the necessary moves. File RAMDSK.ARC in Data Library 9.

Capital Quiz—*Talking State Capitals Tutor* remembers incorrect answers and asks them again at the end of the quiz. File CAPITA.ARC in Data Library 10.

Planet Exploration—A demo in which you explore a planet in the Alpha Centauri System. File PROBE.ARC in Data Library 16.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FORUM
(GO AIE-100)

Game Language—A new special purpose programming language for computer text adventure games. Has a facility for defining kinds of objects for such games. By David Betz, author of XLISP. Files ADVSYS.ARC and ADVSYS.DOC in Data Library 7.

ASTRONOMY FORUM
(GO ASTROFORUM)

Telescope Program—A program to compute and display the diffraction patterns produced by different obstructions in the light path of a telescope. From *Sky & Telescope* for September 1987. File DIFPAT.BAS in Data Library 7.

Amateur Astronomy—Computer Astronomy for the Amateur, a menu-driven series of Applesoft astronomy programs for ProDOS Apple II computers. Files CAFTA1.BNY, CAFTA2.BNY and CAFTA.DOC, all in Data Library 7.

COMMODORE MUSIC, GRAPHICS AND GAMES FORUM
(GO CBMART)

Computer Tunes—Two self-dissolving ARC files of Sidplayer songs that had their official releases at the SIDFEST, held in Columbus, Ohio, on June 27, 1987. Files SFEST1.IMG and SFEST2.IMG in Data Library 10.

Puzzling Play—A "flip 'em" puzzle in which each move you make affects the neighboring squares. The goal is to flip the pieces so they're all solid except the middle. File FLIP.BIN in Data Library 11.

Drawing Aid—A symbol file of ANSI Y14.5 geometric characters for use in creating blueprint drawings with Steve Nye's CAD3. File ANSIFG.IMG in Data Library 12.

Terminal Reference—A quick reference sheet for the "Common Sense Terminal" program that comes with the Commodore 1670 Modem. This is a GeoWrite document. File COMMON.BIN in Data Library 13.

Text Adventure System—Version 3.0 of the GABventure System for the Commodore 64. Play or write adventures with this system. BASIC programs are used but you don't program to write the adventures. Files GABV3.BIN and GABV3.TXT in Data Library 9.

MAUG APPLE II/III FORUM
(GO APPLE)

Terminal Program—Apple Communication Terminal, a powerful communications program for the Apple IIe/IIc and IIgs that features XMODEM and terminal emulation. Offers online graphics, music and even games, including *Chess* and *Reversi*. File ACT.BNY in Data Library 10.

Compare Files—Super Compare compares files on one disk with another—either single files, all files in a specified directory or all files on a disk. Also performs partial disk backups based on date. Requires PROCMD. Beagle Compile or Beagle Extra K recommended for best performance. File SCOMP.BNY in Data Library 1.

Desktop Organizer —KOCO.DESKTOP, a program to keep your computer work area clean and organized. Includes programs for addresses and memos. The memo program will keep you posted on all the important memos, and it provides a place to search for memos and reminders. File KOCO.DES in Data Library 1.

Envelope Typer—A file that converts to a BASIC program called "ENVELOPE," which will type out envelopes with your return address. File ENV.TXT in Data Library 1.

MAUG MAC USERS FORUM
(GO MACUS)

Navigator—The CompuServe Navigator, a communications program that makes CompuServe easier and faster to use. The program will sign on, collect messages, read EasyPlex messages, scan data libraries, mark threads for retrieval, mark files for downloading and create replies and new messages to be sent automatically. File NAVIG.APP in Data Library 14.

Typing Helper—An application to help with typing practice. It tracks words per minute, errors, correct words spelled and more. File TYPING.PIT in Data Library 1.

Kaleidoscope—A small program that draws kaleidoscope patterns on the Macintosh screen. Uses random colors and patterns. File PATERN.BIN in Data Library 16.

SCIENCE FICTION FORUM
(GO SCIFI)

Trek Novels—A listing of Pocket Book's Star Trek novel releases from July 1987 to the summer of 1988. File STNOV2.TXT in Data Library 2.

Dr. Who Newsletter—A special edited electronic edition from the National Right to Time Travel Association, Washington D.C.'s Doctor Who Fan Club. File TIMETR in Data Library 4.

SPACE FORUM
(GO SPACEFORUM)

NASA Budget—The 1988 budget for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with 1986 and 1987 comparisons. File BUDGET.88 in Data Library 1.

TANDY PROFESSIONAL FORUM
(GO TRS80PRO)

Filing System—PHD, an electronic name, address and phone number filing system. Multiple field searches, five different printed reports and menu driven with context-sensitive help. File PHD.ARC in Data Library 6.

Extended Directory—Zinger, MS-DOS shareware by Joseph Shannon. A flexible color directory listing utility that does more than the DIR command. File ZD.ARC in Data Library 7.

Desk Commando—An MS-DOS memory resident utility that contains a user-definable menu system, DOS shell with a graphic tree support for hard disks, three calculators, disk optimizer, file uneraser, disk sort utility, appointment calendar, phone dialer, alarm clock function and more. File DESK13.ARC in Data Library 6.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* Advanced CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

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The Super Modem 2400 automatically adjusts itself to match terminal's (or computer's) baud rate, parity and stop bits. The default setting is CCITT 2,400 bps but all parameters can be changed in the modem's non-volatile memory by using the extended "AT" command set. 11 status LED's are provided: Auto answer, off hook, high speed, DSR, RTS, DCD, TD, RD, RI, CTS and DTR. Switches are provided for constant carrier, holding DTR *high, crossing pins 2 and 3, 11 bit characters and auto answer.*

The modem is fully compatible with the Hayes® "AT" command set at all speeds and uses the new Hayes® 2400 commands for synchronous operation making the Super Modem 2400 compatible with virtually all IBM PC communications software. An internal speaker with software selectable volume is included. The Super Modem 2400 has an on-line help screen which shows communication parameters.

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MODULATION: FSK and PSK
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EQUALIZATION: Automatic adaptive
DIAGNOSTICS: Self test, local and remote analog and digital loopback
DCE interface (stand alone models) EIA RS232C
VF interface 10 foot cable with RJ-11 jack. FCC approved
DIMENSIONS: 8½" x 6¼" x 1½" – weight 1.5 lbs. (0.69 Kg.)

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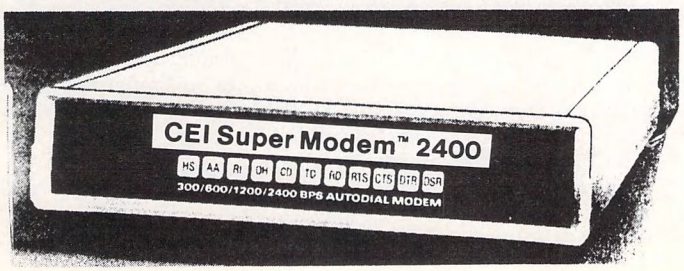

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How to order

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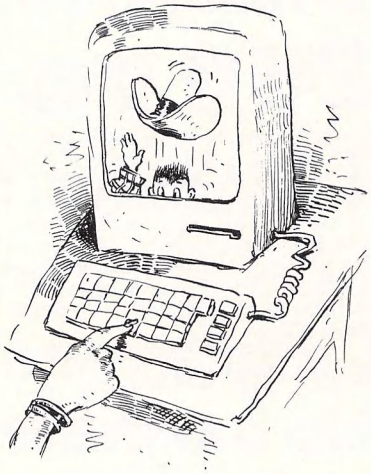

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Professional Connection 3.1

Faster, More Powerful Software Appeals to Business Users

Professional Connection 3.1, the next step in CompuServe's progression of terminal software for the IBM PC/MS-DOS world, offers a number of new features and enhancements over Professional Connection 2.00. This successor maintains a level of compatibility while offering increased power.

Among Professional Connection 3.1's enhancements are a more powerful script language and a different opening menu, reports Craig Knouf, CompuServe VIDTEX marketing manager. The more powerful script language allows users to automate access to CompuServe, with the capability to trap and recover from errors and unexpected events. It also contains a feature that permits users to create customized menus—especially useful for individuals or companies who want to target a specific market.

"This is a considerably better piece of software," Knouf says. "A lot of people will like it because of the script language." Professional Connection 2.0 had no provisions for handling repetitiveness. "Professional Connection 3.1 is aimed at business customers," Knouf adds. "Complex scripts can be developed to automate a user's interaction with another computer. Unattended communications are supported where a user can start a script application at a certain time, come back the next day and have the task completed."

Knouf points out that Professional Connection 3.1 contains three levels of interaction: a full-screen menu, command-line menu and a command-line prompt.

The new software also supports a subset of NAPLPS graphics, RLE graphics and CompuServe's new GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) protocol. With Professional Connection 3.1, users can plot graphs and stock charts in color and at a fast speed.

Unlike most terminal programs, which are incapable of adapting to users' needs, Professional Connection 3.1 enables users to write programs that communicate with the software and take advantage of its advanced features. These programs can co-exist in memory with Professional Connection 3.1, so there is no load delay when transferring control.

The expandability feature of Professional Connection 3.1 is perhaps the most enhanced aspect of the new software. "With Professional Connection 3.1, you can write extra functionality into a program," Knouf says. "For example, you can write a program that handles InfoPlex. It is essentially an upgrade. Any number of these programs can be created. A game programmer might be interested in writing an addition to make a game more attractive to users. With its powerful script language and its expandability to add new features and functionality, Professional Connection 3.1 addresses the current and future needs of its users.

"With Professional Connection 2.0, any change had to be made by our group," Knouf says. "With the new software, anybody can make enhancements." In addition, Professional Connection 3.1 enables users to perform efficient B Protocol file and data transfers between CompuServe mainframes and their personal computers. Also, the popular XMODEM protocol has been added to the software to allow for transfer of files on other online services. Professional Connection 3.1 also allows users to redefine most ALT and function keys to execute any PC3 command sequence or to invoke a special application. Professional Connection 3.1 also supports more varied types of hardware and runs on more microcomputers.

Professional Connection 3.1 requires a 320K machine, with 384K or more preferred. It supports the IBM PC, PC-XT and PC-AT with either a monochrome, color graphics, enhanced graphics or Paradise adapter. It also supports the special features of the IBM PCjr, Data General/One, Tandy 1000 and Tandy 2000, Compaq, Hercules monochrome and AT&T 6300, according to Knouf. In addition, Professional Connection 3.1 can work with almost any modem that is command-driven through the serial port.

Professional Connection 3.1 is distributed on two diskettes. The first diskette contains files that are common between all versions. The second diskette contains a collection of display drivers and serial drivers for Professional Connection 3.1. These drivers are customized to a particular piece of hardware so Professional Connection 3.1 can get the best performance out of that hardware.

—Robert Loomis

MicroQuote II

Simplifies Financial Research

If you've ever experienced the tedium of researching stock performance through standard library resources, you'll probably agree that there's got to be a better way—and there is. It's MicroQuote II, a database that provides quick access to historical information on more than 90,000 stocks, bonds, mutual funds, options, market indexes and more.

"Time is money," says Scott Clyde, manager of financial products, "and our subscribers know that better than anybody. That's why MicroQuote II is so appealing. It's more efficient than a librarian or independent researcher."

Examples of the types of research tasks you can accomplish using MicroQuote II include:

- Obtaining historical pricing information on a particular company's stock. To find this data, select the Pricing History-1 Issue program (GO PRICES), for any period of days, weeks or months you designate, back to December 31, 1973. Pricing History-1 Issue provides a valuable "window" to past prices and trading activity, which can be downloaded and studied at your leisure.
- Locating quotes on many different issues for any given trading day. To find these, use the Multiple Issue-1 Day program (GO QUOTES). This program is especially useful for investors monitoring and comparing various prices on several investments.
- Obtaining dividend, bond interest, stock split and hard-to-find mutual fund distribution information through the Dividends, Splits and Bond Interest program (GO DIVIDEND). Because the payout ratios offered by various investments can be an important part of their overall return, many investors find this information to be particularly useful.

Other examples of value-added programs that access MicroQuote II abound. These range from getting market highlights and following the aggregate performance of the various exchanges (GO MARKET), to examining qualitative information about securities to better understand their unique characteristics (GO EXAMINE).

The MicroQuote II database is designed to quickly and easily locate and display information. In most cases you need only to specify by ticker symbol or a CUSIP number the stock or security of interest, indicate the desired range of dates, and the program will do the rest. Finally, there's no need to adjust for stock splits since this, too, is done automatically.

I/B/E/S Monitors Earning Estimates

I/B/E/S, the Executive Option product that provides consensus earnings estimates on more 3,800 US securities, is being made available to all CompuServe Information Service subscribers during the month of November.

Also known as the Institutional Brokers Estimate System, it continuously monitors earnings estimates and revisions contributed by 280 research departments from major investment houses.

A service of Lynch, Jones and Ryan, a member firm of the New York Stock Exchange, I/B/E/S is based on the simple premise that stock prices are primarily determined by professional expectations for the future earnings of an organization rather than by its past performance. I/B/E/S also helps investors to spot stock trends, monitor their own brokerage firms' predictions, and make more informed investment decisions by betting with (or against) the market predictions. By informing investors about the number of analysts that follow a particular stock, and by presenting the mean, median, high, low, and number of analysts who have recently revised their earnings estimates, I/B/E/S provides investors with important benchmarks concerning professional expectations.

Because analysts' predictions are constantly changing, I/B/E/S is updated weekly and presented through two report formats. The brief report shows weekly and monthly estimates and upward or downward trends in the forecasts. The expanded report also displays quarterly and yearly estimates and the degree of consensus among the professionals, where disagreement can mean more room for price movements.

The surcharge for I/B/E/S is 50 cents per company for the brief report and $2 per company for the expanded report. To access I/B/E/S during this special November offer, type GO IBES from any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

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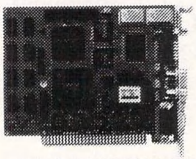
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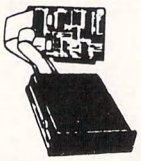
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New WordPerfect Forum Online

by Carole Houze Gerber

If you'd like advice on how to lay out documents more attractively, edit with fewer keystrokes, redefine printer drivers and hundreds of other topics related to maximizing the efficiency of your WordPerfect software, check into the new WordPerfect Forum (GO WPSG). Supported on the forum is the latest version of the word processing program, WordPerfect 4.2 (in Data Library 1), a spreadsheet program called PlanPerfect (Data Library 4) and WordPerfect Library (Data Library 5), which includes a calculator, file manager, macro editor, program editor, calendar and notebook.

Run by Sandy and Richard Wilkes, the forum grew out of the Baltimore-based husband and wife team's WordPerfect Support Group, which also includes a monthly newsletter called *The WordPerfectionist*. (The WordPerfect Support Group is an independent company not affiliated with WordPerfect Corp.) Wilkes says the Support Group has grown from about 600 members when it began three years ago to 15,000. "We're probably the largest support group for an individual software package line," Wilkes says. "If WordPerfect sells it, we'll cover it in the forum."

Prior to offering an online service through CompuServe, the WordPerfect Support Group offered members a two-phone-line Bulletin Board Service. "The BBS was busy 24 hours a day," Wilkes recalls. "And it was difficult for busy people to get help when they needed it. Through the forum, more people will be served more quickly.

In addition to conferencing and messaging capabilities, the WordPerfect Forum offers 16 data libraries that address a variety of topics related to making the best use of WordPerfect on many types of hardware. The MS/DOS version of WordPerfect runs on the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-compatibles. There are also versions for a wide variety of other computers, including the Apple IIe, IIc, IIgs, and the Amiga, Laser 120 and Franklin 2100-2200. For the larger computers there are versions for VAX and DG machines. "Any computer that a WordPerfect product runs on has a place in the forum," Wilkes says.

Among the more popular data libraries in WordPerfect is Data Library 1, which contains data on WordPerfect macros, merge applications, menu systems, mouse drivers and more. In Data Library 2 there are more than 300 up-to-date printer definitions supplied by WordPerfect Corp. and WordPerfect Support Group members. Other data libraries contain information on desktop publishing, converting various word processing and database formats to WordPerfect, press releases on new products from WordPerfect Corp., and more. Although membership in the WordPerfect Support Group, which costs $36 annually and includes a subscription to the monthly *WordPerfectionist*, is not required to access the forum, it *is* a prerequisite to getting into Data Library 11, which includes book and product reviews, articles and tutorials.

Of special interest to new forum members, says Wilkes, is Data Library 12, which deals with telecommunications—specifically with a program called TAPCIS, which, for a one-time $79 fee, enables users to maximize their use of CompuServe while minimizing the cost. TAPCIS is a completely automated package for IBM machines accessing the system," he explains. "You can set it up to check your EasyPlex mail, the forums and other online services." TAPCIS can also be used as a terminal program for other programs such as the Executive News Service. It gathers all the information at once so it can be read later offline. TAPCIS has its own editor and is easy to use. It also has time and charges recall so it can unofficially track the time spent online in each forum.

Peter Forbes

Perfecting WordPerfect's performance: *The Wilkes manage WP forum*

"The version we distribute is a completely legal, registered version for WordPerfect users," Wilkes adds. "If you download updates later, there's no charge. Our whole idea here was to make it possible for people who didn't know how to download to have a complete, inexpensive package specifically geared to IBM computers."

Wilkes says he expects many WordPerfect Support Group subscribers, who include newscasters, engineers, lawyers, word processing professionals and an assortment of other career types, to take advantage of the forum. As a result, novices can expect to find many experienced new friends online. "We try to help everyone, of course," explains Wilkes. "But we're particularly looking for new users because they're the ones I think we and our members can help the most. If there's a tough problem I can almost guarantee there's someone out there who's already solved it. It won't cost them a fortune to get the answers promptly—usually within a day."

For more information about the WordPerfect Forum, type GO WPSG or contact Richard Wilkes via EasyPlex at 76701,23. Sandy Wilkes, the other forum administrator, can be reached at 76701,22.

The WordPerfect Support Group is located at P.O. Box 1577, Baltimore, MD 21203; phone 301/889-7894.

Carole Houze Gerber is a contributing editor of Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,1215.*

Current Quotes

Keeping Pace with the Market

August 11, 1987 was a red letter day for the New York Stock Exchange—the 280 million shares traded marked the second highest trading volume in the Exchange's history. Despite the frenetic activity, those who accessed Current Quotes (GO QQUOTES) on CompuServe that day to retrieve quotes received them on time as usual.

That's because behind the scenes several independent computer processing systems took the huge volumes of data directly from Wall Street and—within 20 minutes—had it formatted and available online. "The 20-minute delay is more contractual than anything else," says Scott Clyde, manager of financial products. "A 20-minute delay is the soonest that the industry will make quotes available without individuals paying a substantial fee to the stock exchanges. We have the technology to process the quotes even faster." A new quote system installed in March allows CompuServe to keep pace with the market no matter how much trading is going on. "This system reliability reflects commitment to computerized investors," he says.

Clyde adds that keeping up with the market or responding to the needs of contemporary investors is nothing new to CompuServe, a pioneer that first provided current quotes online in 1983. "Back then, '200 million share' trading days were almost unthinkable and our subscriber base was much smaller," he recalls. "Today we've come to expect record trading days and we've responded with new technology that can do the job for all types of investors."

For example, if you are seeking a single stock quote, you would simply type GO QQUOTE at any prompt or select the Current Quotes choice under the QUOTES menu. Upon entering the QQUOTE program, you are greeted with an "ISSUE:" prompt, at which point you simply type the ticker symbol or CUSIP number that identifies the stock, then hit the Return key. If the ticker symbol or CUSIP is not known, type an asterisk followed by the company name. QQUOTE will provide information on the volume of shares in thousands traded, the high price, low price, last price and change in price, and it will list the time the quote was updated.

If you are tracking several companies at once, the command is GO MQUOTE to enter the command-driven financial products area and create a file of ticker symbols of the companies you are tracking. This process eliminates the need to type in the same ticker symbols one at a time. Then you return to QQUOTE and at the ISSUE: prompt type in the name of the file you have created. For example, STOCKS.DAT. In this case STOCKS is the name of the new file and .EXT is the name of the file's extension. After pressing the Return key, you will receive a quote for every company's stock and/or each market index contained in your ticker file. If you are using the information on spreadsheets, typing /OUTPUT at the ISSUE: prompt and typing in the name for the OUTPUT file (making sure to add a .PRN extension to the filename) will save the information in a format suitable for spreadsheets. When you're finished, the file will be saved in the MQUOTE work area.

Finally, investors desiring only volume and closing stock prices can obtain them by typing /ITEMS at the ISSUE: prompt and pressing the Return key. This provides a menu selection of the items displayed by QQUOTE from which to choose. With this process, you can avoid the problem of having to download a large amount of information just to get the two pieces of data you need. Once the ticker symbols or ticker file name is entered followed by the Return key, the desired stock prices will be displayed.

—J. David Edwards

For More Business Information

To obtain more information about capabilitiess34offered to CompuServe's business information customers, contact the CompuServe branch sales office nearest you:

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Business Briefs

American Express ADVANCE Expands Travel Information

American Express ADVANCE has added travel information about purchasing and refunding American Express Travelers Cheques and an update of *The Serious Investor* newsletter.

The American Express Merchandise Shop (GO AXM) has added a *Travel and Leisure* magazine article entitled "High Road to Paris" and an opportunity to subscribe to the *New York Woman* magazine. GO AXP

Demographic Reports Added

SUPERSITE has released 1987 updates and 1992 forecasts including Demographic, Sales Potential and ACORN reports of variables such as population, income, age, sex and race.

The updated reports cover general demographics, income, housing, education and employment available by census tract, ZIP code, county, state, area of dominant influence, standard metropolitan statistical area and designated market area.

Two new Neighborhood Reports (Civic/Public Activity Report and Gift Ideas Report) focus on lifestyle and neighborhood statistics. These reports carry a surcharge of $10 per ZIP code report. GO DEMOGRAPHICS

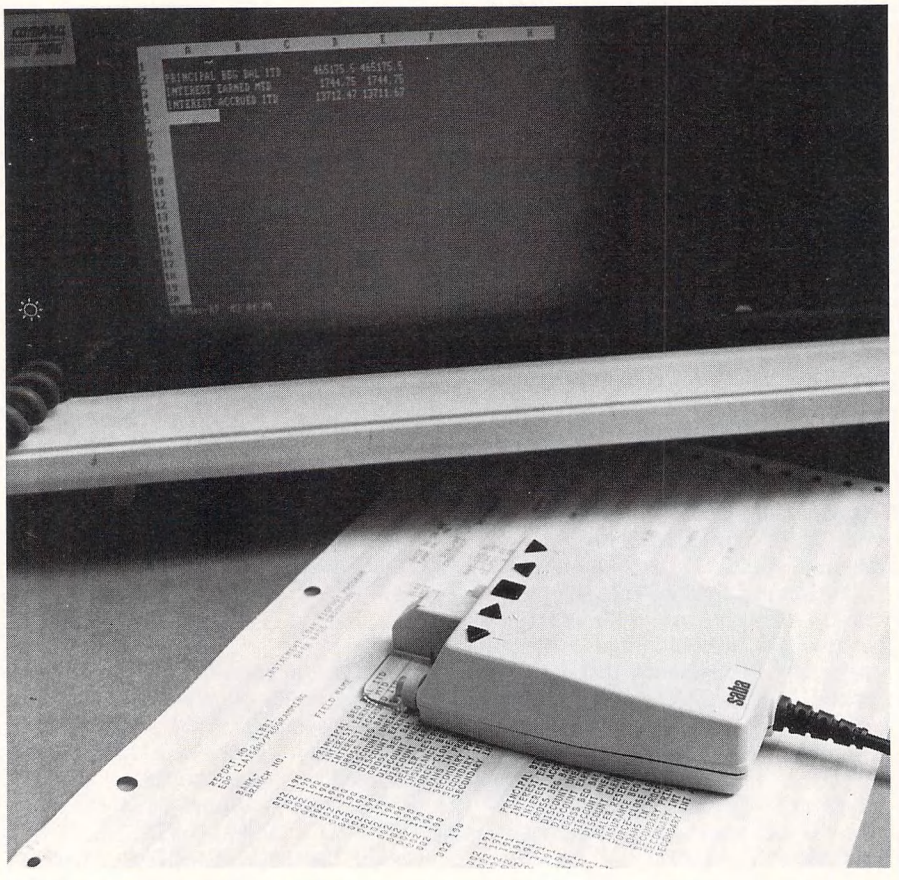
Saba Handscan

Selectively Reads and Formats Printed Material

Saba Technologies
9300 S.W. Gemini Dr.
Beaverton, OR 97005
503/626-7050 or 800/654-5274

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and true compatibles.
Operating System: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.1 or later.
Features: Includes hand-held scanner, interface card, utility software and manual; selectable normal or small type sensitivity; automatic or manual font searching and identification using preprogrammed font identification files; automatic or manual light/dark print adjustment; programmable character substitutions; programmable push-button and character macros; definable character transfer delay; selectable full-alphabetic or numeric-only reading.
Options: None.
Requirements: Minimum 512K RAM(640K recommended); needs two diskette drives or a diskette drive and a hard disk (hard disk recommended).
Model Tested: Handscan version 2.0 used with 1,024K Proteus 286GT computer equipped with 2.5MB STB Systems Grande Byte extended memory card, one 360K diskette drive, one 1.2MB diskette drive, one 20MB hard disk, dual external 15MB Sysgen DuraPak drives, STB Systems EGA Plus video adapter, Amdek Color 722 EGA monitor and Epson FX-85 printer; running IBM PC-DOS at 12MHz.
Retail Price: $649.95

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau



Selective scanning: *Saba Handscan*

Imagine a mouse that reads printed text, and you'll have an idea what Saba Handscan is. Align its oversized and odd-looking scanning "mouse" with some text, push a button, pass the illuminated optical detector across printed characters, and the text reads into the computer as though it is typed at the keyboard.

The key is selectivity. Unlike page-oriented devices, Handscan lets you pick and read the things you want. You can read scattered numbers or entire tables into a spreadsheet, copy-selected words, sentences or paragraphs into a word processor, or extract information for a database manager. You control what you read and where you put it without picking up unwanted material.

Handscan allows on-the-fly formatting. On either side of the "read" button, pairs of pointer buttons provide cursor control or they can execute macros to perform tasks such as inserting tabs. A "substitution" table in the memory-resident software can be set to ignore selected characters or replace them with others. For example, dollar signs might interfere with reading numbers into a spreadsheet, so the substitution table can remove them or replace them with spaces, tabs or other characters. Furthermore, the software can be set to read numbers only if desired.

Installation is straightforward. First, plug Handscan's interface card into an expansion slot. Switches controlling the interrupt request line and I/O port address are available but usually aren't needed. Second, connect the scanner to the card. The connector is unlike conventional serial or parallel I/O connectors, so it is almost impossible to connect to the wrong card. Third, run an install routine that copies driver, control software and chosen font files. Diskettes are fine for a few font files, but a hard disk is advisable when most or all fonts are wanted. Full installation with all fonts from six distribution diskettes devours two megabytes of hard-disk space.

Finally, load the device driver and memory-resident scanning control program (with an appropriate configuration file). I prefer using DOS commands to a batch file and load Handscan's software only when needed to avoid using 220K of RAM unnecessarily.

Scanning is easy but takes practice. Position the scanner so its guideline passes through the midline of the printed text, press the "read" button and move the device from left to right. The scanner isn't particularly sensitive to speed and can be moved slowly or quickly.

Scanning is sensitive to alignment, and the guide must stay close to the characters' midline. Drifting up or down garbles characters. Two rolling wheels help maintain alignment, but scanning takes a delicate touch. One problem is that the connecting cable exits the scanner under your wrist

instead of under your fingertips. The cable drags then tends to skew the scanner while traversing a line.

Before Handscan can read anything, its software must know what font it is reading. The reviewed unit has 24 font files for seven mainframe laser, 11 letter-quality and six dot-matrix (near-letter-quality) categories. The font may be chosen manually from menus in the pop-up software or identified by an automatic "font finder" that compares available fonts with scanned samples and ranks fonts by how well they match. This handles many, but not all, computer-generated printouts and typewritten pages. In applications such as transcribing mainframe printouts into personal computer programs, Handscan can save time and effort by avoiding manual rekeying of data.

As expected, Handscan cannot read handwriting. It also cannot read proportionally spaced type styles, typeset pages or draft-quality dot-matrix printouts. Although expansions are planned, current limitations are stringent, and Handscan is unsuitable for such uses as taking notes from books, magazines or newspapers. Even if it read the fonts, it is designed for flat pages and can't accommodate the curvature near edges of bound pages.

As stated in the literature, character recognition accuracy varies according to the print quality. Usually it is extremely good given a close font match. However, even an exact font sometimes has trouble reading certain characters. In several fonts, the number 8 often reads as an S or $ symbol. Numeric 0 and alphabetic O sometimes are transposed, and lowercase g and y have been misread as uppercase Y.

Handscan would be a useful, cost-effective device in the right applications, but prospective buyers must be sure it supports the fonts and software they use. I'm only sorry I can't use it to put bits and pieces from magazine pages, newspapers, clipping files and the like into my note keeping, word processing and text-retrieval systems.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time, free-lance writer and Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

Trademarks: DuraPak (Sysgen Inc.); EGA Plus and Grande Byte (STB Systems Inc.); Epson and Epson FX (Epson America Inc.); IBM, PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.); Proteus 286GT (Wintech Data Products Corp.); Saba and Handscan (Saba Technologies Inc.).

GO OLI or circle 13 on the Reader Service Form.

Electronic Edition Hardware Reviews

The following hardware reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-220 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

AST Premium/286 Computer
Manufacturer: *AST Research Inc.*
Computer: *AST Premium/286 (IBM PC-AT compatible).*

Victor V286 Computer
Manufacturer: *Victor Technologies*
Computers: *Victor V286 (IBM PC-AT compatible).*

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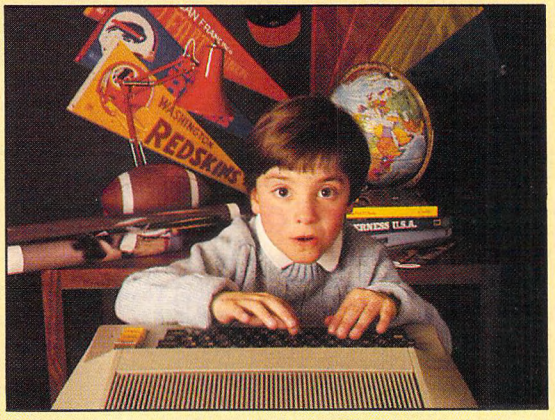

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Logimouse C7 Plus

Versatile System Add-on

Logitech
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Redwood City, CA 94063
415/365-9852

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or later.
Media: Software supplied on two 5.25-inch diskettes.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Serial port assigned to COM1 or COM2 (bus-type mouse not requiring serial port also is available); supports wide variety of monitors and display adapters.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM for software.
Optional Items: None.
Systems used for test: (1) AST Premium/286 computer with 80287 math coprocessor, Genoa SuperEGA HiRes video adapter, Sony Multi-Scan monitor, 80MB hard disk, two diskette drives and 2MB of zero wait; running MS-DOS 3.20 at 10MHz. (2) 704K Heathkit PC-150 with CGA adapter and color monitor, 20MB hard disk, two diskette drives and V-20 processor; running MS-DOS 3.20.
List Price: $119

Reviewed by Hardin Brothers

The Logimouse C7 has gone a long way toward softening my prejudice against using a mouse with many computer applications. This three-button, physical-drive mouse that connects to either a COM1 or COM2 serial port had no trouble tracking evenly and smoothly on various surfaces. Although it is small and fits comfortably in the hand, the Logimouse has a weighty, substantial feeling that makes it seem of higher quality than many mice I've tried.

A 6-foot connecting cable has adapters to fit either 25-pin (IBM PC or PC-XT) or 9-pin (IBM PC-AT) serial connectors. The mouse is easy to disassemble and clean of any dirt it may pick up on a desktop. Each button makes a positive-feeling click that never left me in doubt about whether I had pressed a button or not. In all, the Logimouse seems to be quality equipment.

The mouse itself is only one part of the total package. Equally important are its compatibility with other mice, the software supplied with this mouse and its documentation.

The Logimouse claims complete compatibility with the Microsoft Mouse, Mouse Systems PC Mouse, Torrington Manager Mouse and Visi-On Mouse. I had no programs that required the latter two, but I installed the Logimouse as both a Microsoft Mouse and Mouse Systems mouse with several programs and found no compatibility problems. It even worked perfectly with Microsoft's own proprietary programs, including QuickBasic and Windows.

The Logimouse is complemented by 78 programs on two diskettes. The first diskette contains the driver software, a program that tests the mouse and various installation batch files. The Logitech mouse driver can be installed either as part of the DOS CONFIG.SYS initialization file or as a separate program. A special driver is supplied for Microsoft Windows.

The second diskette is included only in the Logimouse Plus system and contains programs that make the mouse work with almost any application. A program called "Menu" is a memory-resident repository for specific mouse commands needed by an application. Each time you start using a new application, a new list of commands is loaded into the menu space in memory to customize the mouse for that particular program.

A second program, "Click," also remains memory-resident. It loads menus automatically as applications are invoked, turns off the mouse when you format disks and allows on-the-fly adjustments to mouse sensitivity while an application is running.

Instructions are included in the 200-page Logimouse manual for writing your own mouse interface for any application. Using a special programming language, you can define what actions you wish to invoke when the mouse is moved in each of four possible directions or when you press any of seven possible combinations of one or more buttons. The mouse language allows creating pop-up menus, setting the mouse sensitivity and determining the contents of the screen.

Menus and source code are provided for numerous popular application programs, including Framework, Symphony, Word Perfect, WordStar, SuperCalc, QMODEM, Turbo Pascal and Prolog, and Logitech's Modula-2. Menus and mouse commands for other applications can be synthesized easily by examining the source codes for these programs and modifying them to suit your needs. Many programs, especially those that are graphics oriented, include their own mouse driver software.

Another program, "M123," creates a shell for Lotus 1-2-3. The Logimouse and M123 speed up spreadsheet movements and selection of 1-2-3 menu items. It also is possible to customize M123 so its pop-up menu has the entries and actions you desire.

There is a powerful window- and mouse-based text editor on the Logimouse Plus diskette. This isn't a word processor, although it could be used to produce short memos. Instead, it is a programmer's text processor that supports editing separate files in multiple windows, selecting menu commands and user-defined macro commands with the mouse and customizing things to meet almost any user's programming style.

Logimouse documentation is supplied in a bound 200-page softcover book. The last half of the book is devoted to the text editor, and I found it somewhat repetitious. The first half explains how to install and maintain the mouse and the rest of the software. It is generally clear and easy to read.

Both the physical mouse and its software are excellent. Both demonstrate that a lot of thought and care have gone into making the Logimouse.

Hardin Brothers is an associate editor of 80 Micro *and a frequent contributor to several other magazines. He is also forum administrator of CompuServe's Writers' and Editors' Special Interest Group (GO WESIG).*

Trademarks: Framework (Ashton-Tate); Heathkit (Heath Co.); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); Logimouse (Logitech Inc.); Lotus, 1-2-3 and Symphony (Lotus Development Corp.); Manager Mouse (The Torrington Co.); MS-DOS, QuickBasic, Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Mouse (Microsoft Corp.); MultiScan (Sony Corp.); Premium/286 (AST Research Inc.); SuperCalc (Computer Associates Inc.); SuperEGA HiRes (Genoa Systems Corp.); Turbo Pascal and Prolog (Borland International Inc.); WordPerfect (WordPerfect Corp.); WordStar (MicroPro International Corp.).

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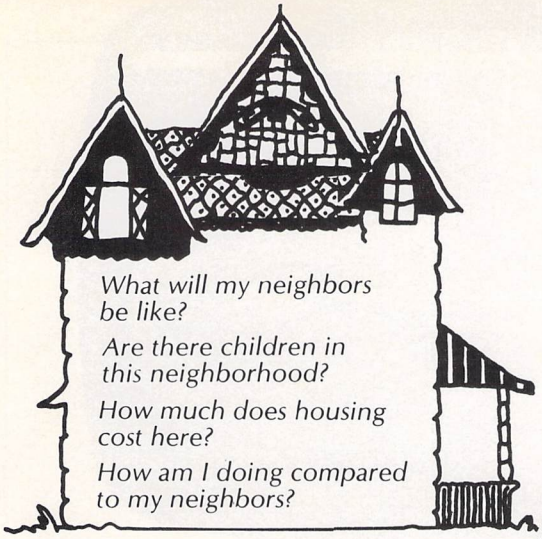
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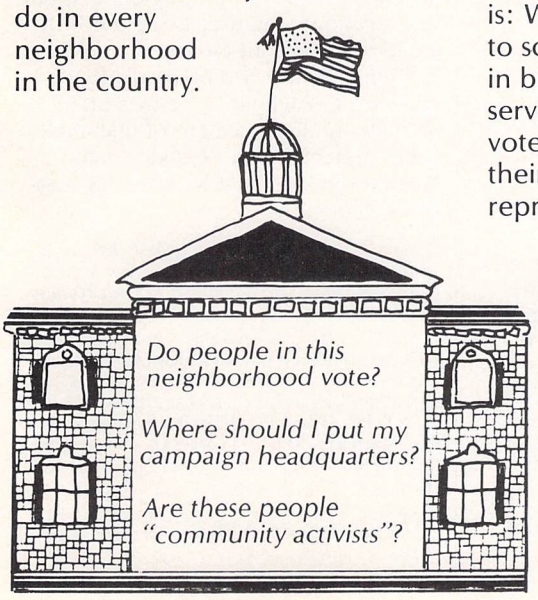

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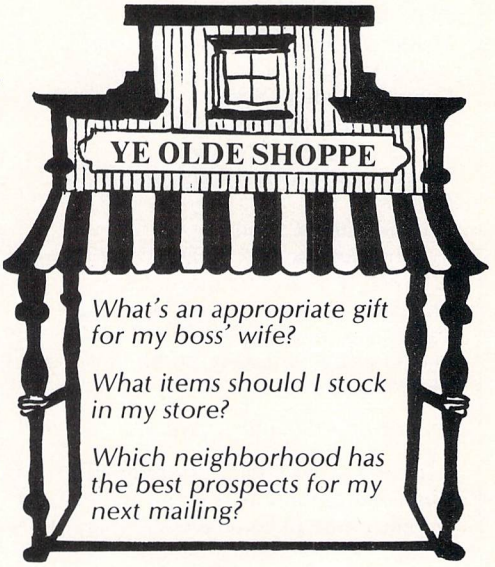
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CACI/ **Instant Demographics**

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Fairfax, Virginia 22031

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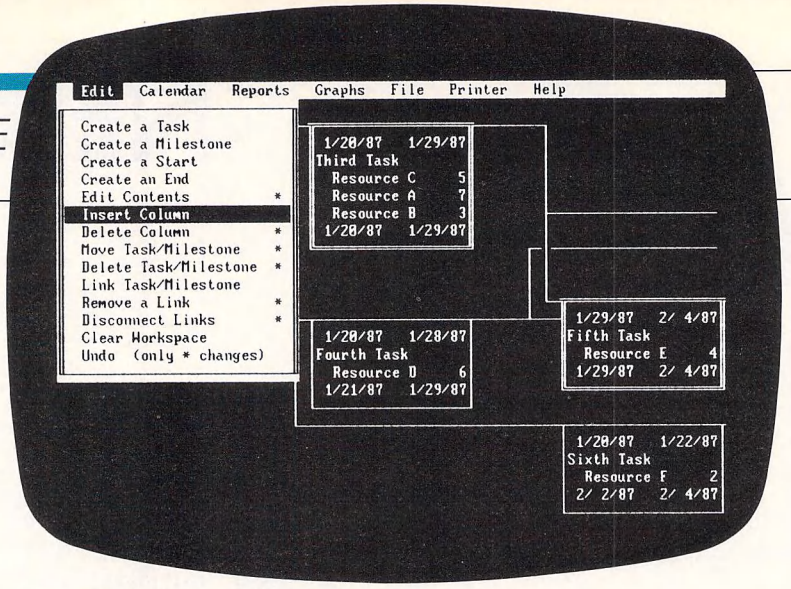
Everybody's Planner

Handles Project Management Tasks

Abracadata Ltd.
P.O. Box 2440
Eugene, OR 97402
503/342-3030

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires two diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: IBM, Epson or Epson-compatible printer.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM.
Optional Items: Mouse.
System used for test: 640K IBM PC-XT with Hercules Graphics Card Plus, two diskette drives, Maynard 20MB hard disk and Okidata Microline 84 printer; running PC-DOS 3.1.
List Price: $99.95

Reviewed by William J. Lynott



Managing project tasks: *Everybody's Planner*

In today's high-tech environment, design and execution of major projects can take on an incredible complexity. It doesn't take much imagination to recognize that designing, building and testing a new jet aircraft will require planning and coordination at a mind-boggling level.

Indeed, some projects, schedules or processes are so complex that the human mind cannot properly oversee them unaided. That is where project management software comes in.

Project management by computer is now standard procedure in many industries. The software written to help this process often is extremely complex and costly. Even off-the-shelf packages can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Everybody's Planner attempts to satisfy more modest projects at a modest price. It succeeds in some ways, but not in others.

Everybody's Planner actually is two separate programs. The first is called "Schedules" and uses an approach known as critical-path-management. The second is called "Flowcharts" and lays out logical paths for ongoing procedures of the type that are not necessarily related to a real-time schedule. A factory assembly line would be a process best laid out in a flowchart pattern. Projects that incorporate schedule and deadline dates are best managed with the critical-path-method.

The Schedules program lets you design project charts that describe the individual tasks that make up a complete project, and you establish lines or paths through which the tasks will pass. You also may indicate milestones (the completion of a building foundation would be a milestone).

A series of pull-down menus guide you in setting up a project with the help of Schedules. Your first step is to provide a starting date. From there, you follow the blinking cursor while you enter various task and milestone descriptions. Because of the graphic elements involved, using a mouse makes this part easier and faster.

Tasks or milestones must be related in a logical path, through a process called linking. For example, the pouring of concrete cannot be started until the concrete has been delivered to the site. The design of a project laid out with Schedules and then printed provides a road map and a time schedule for that project.

The Schedules program contains many features that provide genuine computer-aided help for scheduling projects, including parallel scheduling. An automatic calendar prevents you from setting a non-workday as a starting date. If you change the starting date, all other dates are adjusted automatically. The program shows early and late starting and finishing dates, shows forced dates, and produces nine different reports including PERT and Gantt charts.

Still, I find Schedules too much of a hybrid to suit my tastes. It lacks the major interpretive and analytical features of full-blown project managers, but it isn't that easy to use. By the time I finished entering a simple test project, I couldn't help feeling that a manual schedule would have been easier and almost as effective.

Schedules does provide a structured approach that will help anyone inexperienced in project management. Projects that a small business set up, such as relocating to a new office or launching a new product, may be enhanced by this program. For anything more complicated, you should consider using a more sophisticated program.

Flowcharts, the companion program, offers an excellent means for visualizing a complex process. By reducing a concept or process to related sections laid out in a logical sequence, Flowcharts helps you to see how parts relate to one another.

Flowcharts uses a group of symbols, including rectangles, lines and arrows, to draw charts symbolizing the process or problem. You may draw a shape, say a rectangle, and insert descriptive text or reverse the process by drawing the shape around existing text. Think of a typical table of organization and you'll have a good idea of the flowchart approach to diagramming.

Like Schedules, Flowcharts uses a series of pull-down menus. I found Flowcharts easier to learn and less awkward to use than the Schedules program. While either program can be used without a mouse, using one will greatly enhance efficiency.

Together, the two programs that make up Everybody's Planner offer help for the management of uncomplicated projects. Don't expect to go beyond the level that its price tag suggests, though.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

Trademarks: Everybody's Planner (Abracadata Ltd.); Hercules and Hercules Graphics Card (Hercules Computer Technology); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.); Okidata Microline (Okidata Div. of Oki America Inc.).

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PC COMplete

Automates EasyPlex and InfoPlex

Transend Corp.
884 Portola Rd.
Portola Valley, CA 94025
415/851-3402 or EasyPlex 70007,1120

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100 percent compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 and higher.
Media: Requires two diskette drives or one diskette drive and a fixed disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Modem (Hayes command set compatibility suggested).
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM.
Optional Items: Printer.
System used for test: 640K Compaq Deskpro 286 with one 1.2MB diskette drive, one 20MB hard disk, Hercules Graphics Card, monochrome monitor, Hayes Smartmodem 1200 and Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Plus printer.
List Prices: $99.95 for the EasyPlex version; $125 for the InfoPlex version.

Reviewed by Harry Green

PC COMplete is a telecommunications program that should interest CompuServe users, because special modules are available for communicating automatically via InfoPlex and EasyPlex.

After the program has been initialized, messages can be exchanged without human intervention at any clock time specified. Even people who have never heard of bit rates, user identification numbers or passwords can complete information exchanges if they're familiar with their computers.

PC COMplete's main menu displays two rows of boxes, the contents of which are accessed by function keys. One box contains menus to set transmission parameters. A pair of boxes serve as in- and out-baskets for handling mail. Another box contains details for accessing services you use, and another contains an address list. These boxes interact for automatic message handling.

Assume you want to send an EasyPlex message to everyone on your staff to say "please comment on the attached proposal." You can write the message, and PC COMplete will send itto the addressees with a designated file automatically appended. Instructions are entered into the out-basket, including directions to the program whether to send messages immediately or later. You can instruct the program to send only, receive only or both send and receive messages.

When the program logs on, it sends all codes needed to deliver the message and leaves a report in your in-basket that the message was delivered. If any irregularity occurs—say the program couldn't find the file to attach—your in-basket will contain the bad news.

Recipients likewise can program their computers to receive automatically. When PC COMplete receives messages, they're stored in the in-basket where they can be read, filed or discarded.

PC COMplete makes it easy for an untrained operator to communicate using CompuServe's InfoPlex or EasyPlex facilities. Actually, neither is difficult to use, but someone who has never tried them could have problems. That is particularly true of InfoPlex, which is command-driven rather than menu-driven. With PC COMplete, sending such electronic mail is no more difficult than sending it over a local area network.

Even without InfoPlex and EasyPlex enhancements, PC COMplete is a versatile program. I reviewed an earlier version for *Online Today* more than two years ago and have used it ever since. The program takes time to learn, but it is so easy to use that you'll probably forget how to log-on manually. The program's automatic log-on feature can route to any forum on CompuServe.

A "learn" function has been added to this version. The program now remembers your keystrokes and uses them for subsequent log-ons. For jumping between forums, PC COMplete includes a keyboard macro function. You can assign any combination of keystrokes to function keys for any purpose.

PC COMplete has a highly effective file-handling capability. It can download automatically with XMODEM protocol to ensure error-free transfers. For anyone who may have puzzled over XMODEM, the process is entirely painless but does slow down transfers. Ordinary file transfers are executed by pressing a function key and selecting the file from a window. Characters are stored in a buffer as they are received, and they can be discarded, saved in a file or sent to the printer with the press of another function key.

PC COMplete can communicate with other personal computers that are similarly equipped. It also can communicate with mainframe computers through VT-100 terminal emulation. It can send Lotus 1-2-3 and WordStar files as attachments to messages without special formatting for data transmission. You can receive a file in your in-basket, edit it, transfer it to the out-basket and retransmit it, an essential feature for handling electronic mail.

One objection I had to the original program has been cured. Passwords were easily accessible to anyone who knew how to page through the menus. In this version, the password is obscured on the screen, and the program itself is password protected.

In its initial version, I recommended this program highly, and I feel that the latest version's added enhancements make it even more valuable to CompuServe subscribers. PC COMplete may not have received the recognition some telecommunications programs have, but it deserves serious attention for most applications, and particularly for EasyPlex and InfoPlex.

Harry Green is a free-lance writer from Portland, Ore. He writes about telecommunications, office automation and personal computer-related topics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

Trademarks: Compaq and Deskpro 286 (Compaq Computer Corp.); CompuServe, EasyPlex and InfoPlex (CompuServe Incorporated); Hercules Graphics Card (Hercules Computer Technology); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); LaserJet (Hewlett-Packard Corp.); Lotus and 1-2-3 (Lotus Development Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.); PC COMplete (Transend Corp.); VT-100 (Digital Equipment Corp.); WordStar (MicroPro International Corp.).

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Amortizer III

Handles Unusual Financing Situations

Good Software Corp.
13601 Preston Rd., #500W
LB 226
Dallas, TX 75420
214/239-6085 or 800/272-4663

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles; Tandy 2000; TI Professional.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 1.1 or higher.
Media: Requires one diskette drive or a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Minimum 128K RAM.
Optional Items: None
System used for test: 640K IBM PC with one 20MB hard disk and one 360K diskette drive; running PC-DOS 2.1.
List Price: $89

Reviewed by James Moran

Amortizer III prepares loan amortization schedules and summaries. Its most common use among consumers would be to calculate the terms of a home mortgage or other large loan.

Installation is simple and requires only that the distribution diskette be copied to a working diskette or a hard disk. The program then is configured by specifying the type of computer being used.

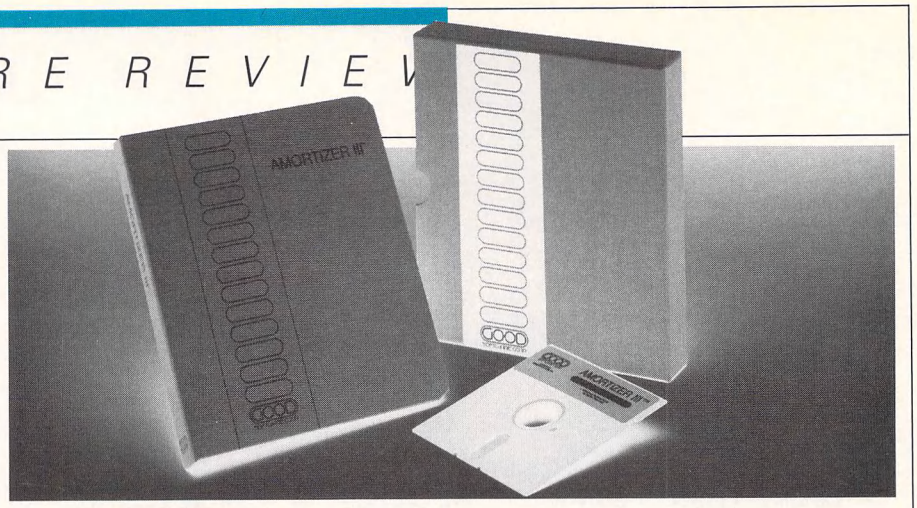
Amortizer III is menu-driven and operating it is pretty much a fill-in-the-blanks exercise. The program can handle various factors encountered in "creative" financing, including balloon payments and negative amortization. It also handles the more common parameters of loan financing, such as fixed and adjustable interest rates.

The software will calculate an unknown variable when three or four variables (loan amount, payment amount, interest rate, number of payments) are supplied. Obviously, this facility is handy when you need to know how a purchase will fit into your monthly budget. If you're investigating mortgage loans, Amortizer III can print a complete amortization schedule, listing each month's principal and interest. For quick scanning, the report also can be directed to the computer's display.

A short but helpful manual lists ways to handle unusual circumstances, such as interest-only loans and multiple-loan summaries.

Amortizer III is a handy little program to have around, but it is priced surprisingly high for a product of this type. Still, if you need an amortization program with facilities for unusual financing situations, this might be your package.

James Moran is the editor of Compu-Syn, *a syndicated news service that specializes in computers and robotics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.*



Making loan calculations easy: *Amortizer III*

Trademarks: Amortizer III (Good Software Corp.); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS- DOS (Microsoft Corp.); Tandyy 2000 (Tandy Corp.); TI Professional (Texas Instruments Corp.).

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dBXL:

An Interpreter-Style dBase III Clone

WordTech Systems
P.O. Box 1747
Orinda, CA 94563
415/254-0900

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires two diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Minimum 512K RAM; 640K RAM recommended (approximately 400K of free memory required).
Optional Items: Printer needed to print reports.
System used for test: 640K IBM PC-XT with Hercules Graphics Card Plus, two diskette drives, Maynard 20MB hard disk and Okidata Microline 84 printer; running PC-DOS 3.1.
List Price: $169

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

Since dBXL is unabashedly advertised and sold as a clone of dBase III, let's start right out making direct comparisons.

First, dBXL appears completely compatible with dBase III files. I used many of my own dBase files, both large and small, for testing and didn't run into a single compatibility problem.

Speed is something else. In my tests, dBXL was undeniably slower than dBase III. The search routines produce the same results, but dBXL takes a bit more time to locate a record. This was most noticeable in large databases holding several thousand records.

Like dBase III, dBXL is an interpreter. That means using a compiler such as WordTech's Quicksilver would accelerate the operations of programs written in either language. However, all comparisons were run with both programs in their interpretive environments to maintain comparability.

Speed may well be a consideration for some potential buyers; but when you compare prices, slightly slower speed can become less important. At $169 list price, dBXL sells for a whopping $526 less than dBase III, and dBXL adds a few features you won't find in dBase III.

The dBXL program boasts an elaborate windowing system for viewing context-sensitive help screens or for viewing data from several different files. It also provides 16 additional functions for such chores as converting a string to proper noun capitalization (first letters in caps), centering a string on a line and converting a string to Soundex form.

Also new is a Fix function for locating and correcting errors during execu-

tion of a program. Fix is a built-in debugging tool that automatically suspends program execution and positions the cursor on the error for editing. Once you correct the error, program execution continues until Fix finds the next error.

The dBXL system comes on three diskettes, one of which contains an automatic installation program requiring only that you answer some prompts. As I inserted each diskette in response to prompts, I was greeted with the message, "This does not seem to be the proper disk. Do you want to proceed anyway?" I answered "yes" each time, and the installation was carried out successfully. Since the program isn't copy-protected, I could have simply used the DOS copy command to copy all files.

The commands and syntax in dBXL are identical to those in dBase III, so users of dBase III can use dBXL with virtually no retraining. Instead of the familiar dot prompt of the dBase family, dBXL greets you with XL when it is ready to go to work. Direct commands keyed at the prompt such as LOCATE, FIND and PACK are virtually identical in both format and function.

However, dBXL doesn't offer the equivalent of the dBase Assistant for beginning users. This is one area where dBXL clearly falls short of the program that inspired it. Instead, dBXL offers a feature called Intro, which is helpful to beginning users but less comprehensive in scope than the Assistant. Intro uses the dBXL windowing environment to provide two levels of context-sensitive help but doesn't offer any catalog or view commands. Import and export capabilities are limited to ".SDF" and delimited formats.

Unlike dBase III, dBXL is strictly a single-user program. No networking commands are supported.

Surprisingly, dBXL requires significantly more memory than dBase III. For proper functioning, it needs 400K of free RAM, which means that 512K total RAM is the practical minimum. My feeling is that 640K would be needed if databases run toward large sizes.

I also used dBXL to run several test reports from dBase III files. All reports were generated accurately and without incident. However, differences in speed that I mentioned earlier were evident in report generation times. On the average, dBXL took about twice as long to churn out a report as did dBase III.

While dBXL falls short of the acknowledged leader of the database world in some areas, it also offers some welcome improvements. While I cannot see any practical reasons for a dBase III owner to switch, the huge price difference between the programs provides a valid reason for a first-time shopper to give long and hard consideration to dBXL.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

Trademarks: dBase and dBase III Plus (Ashton-Tate); dBXL and Quicksilver (WordTech Systems Inc.); Hercules and Hercules Graphics card (Hercules Computer Technology); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.); Okidata Microline (Okidata Div. of Oki America Inc.).

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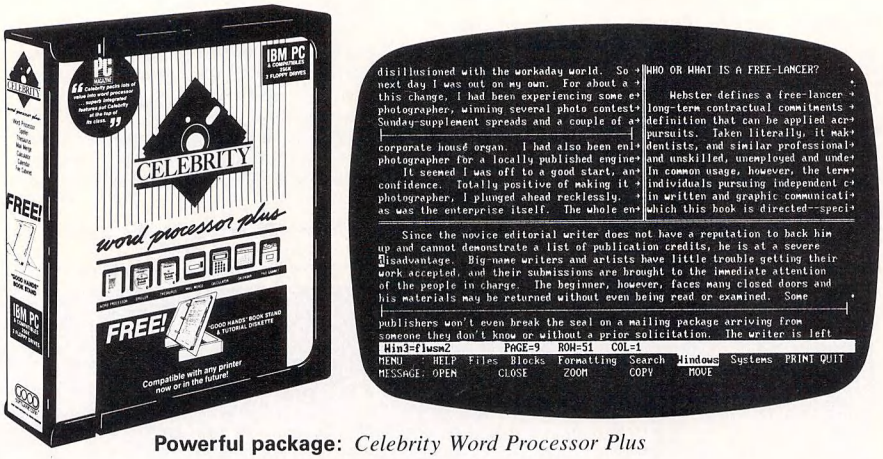
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corporate house organ. I had also been en
photographer for a locally published engine
It seemed I was off to a good start, an
confidence. Totally positive of making it
photographer, I plunged ahead recklessly.
as was the enterprise itself. The whole en
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pursuits. Taken literally, it mak
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and unskilled, unemployed and unde
In common usage, however, the term
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which this book is directed--speci
Since the novice editorial writer does not have a reputation to back him
up and cannot demonstrate a list of publication credits, he is at a severe
disadvantage. Big-name writers and artists have little trouble getting their
work accepted, and their submissions are brought to the immediate attention
of the people in charge. The beginner, however, faces many closed doors and
his materials may be returned without even being read or examined. Some
publishers won't even break the seal on a mailing package arriving from
someone they don't know or without a prior solicitation. The writer is left
Win3=flwsm2 PAGE=9 ROW=51 COL=1
MENU : HELP Files Blocks Formatting Search Windows Systems PRINT QUIT
MESSAGE: OPEN CLOSE ZOOM COPY MOVE

Powerful package: *Celebrity Word Processor Plus*

Celebrity Word Processor Plus

For Word Processing and More

Good Software Corp.
13601 Preston Rd., #500W
LB 226
Dallas, TX 75420
214/239-6085 or 800/272-4663

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
Operating Systems: MS-DOS or PC-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires two 360K diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk (recommended).
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Monochrome or color monitor and video adapter.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM (384K RAM with DOS 3.2).
Optional Items: Any supported printer.
System used for test: 512K Victor V286 (AT-compatible) with one 1.2MB diskette drive, one 20MB hard disk, EGA color monitor and video adapter; running MS-DOS 3.2.
List Price: $89.95

Reviewed by Franklyn Jones

You're probably tempted to skim this lightly, passing it off as just another review of an ordinary word processor. Well, there are rare exceptions to every rule, and this is one.

I'm the first to admit that I didn't expect much from a $90 word processor. But Celebrity Word Processor Plus is a good product and a good value. With a few modifications, Celebrity could become an exceptional product.

This is a fast, well-documented, easily learned, easily used and fairly powerful word processing package that comes with a built-in thesaurus, spelling checker, calculator, calendar, mail-merge, forms system, report writer, file manager, online help and comprehensive tutorial diskette. It installs in minutes, supports color monitors and sets up its own subdirectory on a hard disk.

The first thing that impressed me was Celebrity's flexibility. It lets you execute commands using menu options, keystroke combinations or English-like commands. No matter what type of command structure you're used to, you'll probably feel at home with Celebrity.

For example, there are three ways to delete any given word. You can delete one character at a time using the Delete key. You can use F1 or F2 to highlight the word and then delete it with the Delete key. Or you can use [CONTROL-W] to delete the word to the right of the cursor.

The only problem with this approach is that it is difficult to memorize all the command options. Fortunately, a command reference card and online reference are readily available. Celebrity's macro capability also makes it easy to modify commands or even to create style sheets for future use.

Celebrity's word processing features rival those of more expensive packages. For example, you can move, copy or delete any definable block; do complex search-and-replace operations; assign various print attributes to any word or character; create powerful macros; take advantage of the IBM extended character set for graphics purposes; and edit files in four different windows. In addition, Celebrity has an "undo" feature to restore deleted text, a "transpose" feature to switch two characters, and a command that automatically changes text from uppercase to lowercase or vice versa.

Despite such fine features, Celebrity's word processor still needs refinement. For example, the program supports bold, italic and underline print attributes, but all display on screen as highlighted text. They're indistinguishable from one another on my EGA monitor. Furthermore, unlike most word processors, Celebrity doesn't give you the option of saving a file on exiting the program. Instead, your options are to abandon the file without saving or to resume editing. If you need to save the file, you first must execute the "save" command from the command line and then exit the program using [CONTROL-Q].

I don't care for the way Celebrity's menu system is implemented. Menu options are accessed by pressing the PrtSc key, which is an odd choice itself. At the bottom of the screen, you'll see a row of menu options, but they cannot be selected by pressing the first letter of an option word. Instead, you must use the Arrow keys (not the space bar) to make a selection and then press the Return key. Constant use of Arrow keys adds unnecessary keystrokes for entering commands. Eight keystrokes are needed just to reformat one paragraph using the menu system. However, the program's macro facility could be used to circumvent some of these problems.

One last complaint. The word processor doesn't seem to offer anything equivalent to WordStar's non-document mode and appears unable to produce a clean ASCII file. My suspicions were confirmed when a DOS "TYPE" command revealed a file speckled with non-text characters that could cause problems for file transfers in telecommunications and other applications.

The thesaurus and spelling checker accompanying Celebrity are good. They're not permanently memory-resident, but once accessed, they share memory with the current document. Both are similar in operation, splitting the screen with the document on the left and the word help on the right. The thesaurus displays synonyms, like words, related words, contrasting words and antonyms, all in separate list categories. These options cover every conceivable problem, and it is easy to insert a word you need or replace one with another. The spelling checker lets you correct errors as you find them or flag them for later review. In addition, you can easily modify the dictionary, which already contains 80,000 words.

Celebrity's calculator, accessed by [CONTROL-F7], may be the most powerful tool in this package. It goes way beyond normal addition, subtraction, multiplication and division by performing various business, scientific and programming functions. It is a bit awkward to use, but it handles everything from loan analyses to logarithms.

The Calendar, accessed by [CONTROL-F8], is essentially an appointment book with a monthly calendar. You can schedule appointments at 15-minute intervals throughout the day, post daily memos and print daily appointments. You can even graph appointments to show how busy you are, but do you really need a graph to tell you that? There are two main drawbacks. First, this tool isn't memory-resident; once you leave Celebrity you lose access to the calendar. Second, there is no built-in alarm to remind you that you're about to miss a meeting. If you're going to use an electronic appointment book, you'll probably need an electronic alarm.

The File Cabinet, accessed by [CONTROL-F9], is a handy little electronic 3-by-5 card file that provides summary information on all your files. It holds the name, size, path name and date, plus author and subject. I found this a useful and practical tool.

After reading my complaints, you may wonder why I have a high opinion of this program. There are two reasons. First, all complaints concern minor annoyances, not major shortcomings or defects. All could be fixed in the next revision. Second, this program costs just $90 and is a superb package for the price despite the annoyances. I've seen $400 programs that can't compare to Celebrity, and this package is worth a closer look by prospective buyers.

In conversations with Good Software personnel, they seemed willing to listen and eager to improve their product. I wouldn't be surprised if Celebrity soon lives up to its name.

Franklyn Jones was formerly the managing editor of Interface Age *magazine and editor-in-chief of* IBM PC Update *magazine. He has written articles for various computer publications, is a regular contributor to* Online Today *and serves as a marketing and communications consultant.*

Trademarks: Celebrity Word Processor Plus (Good Software Corp.); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.); WordStar (MicroPro International Corp.).

GO OLI or circle 22 on the Reader Service Form.

Flipside!

Turns Print-outs Around

Micro-Systems Software
4301-18 Oak Circle
Boca Raton, FL 33431
305/391-5077

Computer: 512K Commodore Amiga.
Operating System: AmigaDOS and Intuition.
Media: Requires one 3.5-inch disk drive.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Color monitor; printer.
Other Requirements: 512K of memory.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: Commodore Amiga 1000 with 1080 monitor, external disk drive and Okimate 20 printer.
Retail Price: $59.95

Reviewed by Cheryl Peterson

The Flipside utility prints graphics, spreadsheets and text on the long axis of pages, and horizontally across several pieces of paper if necessary. By modifying margins and page widths, you can print extremely large sheets.

If the printer is set up properly through the preferences window, you can use the Amiga's different font sizes and styles. You can increase or decrease Flipside's form size to enlarge or reduce pictures.

Owning only one supported printer, I was limited in the testing I could do. I had a little trouble at first because I didn't quite understand the program's operation. To use a font in a printout, that font (in the correct size) must be on the Flipside disk.

Flipside uses IFF format files, including those produced by Micro-Systems' Scribble, Analyze and Organize programs. Most Amiga programs for graphics, spreadsheets, databases and word processing can create IFF format files, so Flipside is compatible with other manufacturer's software.

The transfer file provided takes a copy of the Workbench 1.2 disk and creates a working copy of Flipside when you point to an icon on the Flipside master disk. Using Flipside is easy, and documentation includes a tutorial that steps through a typical printing session.

This will do the trick for anyone who needs to print files sideways, but I'd be happier if it weren't so expensive; $59.95 is steep for a utility package.

Cheryl Peterson, a free-lance writer from Miami Beach, writes reviews for several computer magazines. Her CompuServe User ID number is 72366.2645.

Trademarks: Analyze!, Flipside!, Organize! and Scribble! (Micro-Systems Software Inc.); Commodore Amiga (Commodore Business Machines Inc.); Okimate (Okidata Div. of Oki America Inc.); Sideways (Funk Software Inc.).

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Electronic Edition Software Reviews

The following software reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-230 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

Trapeze Presentation Manager
Manufacturer: *Data Tailor, Inc.*
Computers: *Various Apple Macintosh computers.*

DeskMate 3 Productivity Software
Manufacturer: *Radio Shack Div. of Tandy Corp.*
Computer: *Tandy Color Computer 3.*

VitalSigns Stock Market Education Investment Help
Manufacturer: *Vital Signs International*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

PFS:Professional File Database Manager
Manufacturer: *Software Publishing*
Computers: *IBM compatibles and others.*

Disk Technician Maintenance Repair Utility
Manufacturer: *Prime Solutions, Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Cubit File Compression Utility
Manufacturer: *SoftLogic Solutions*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

ProDesign II Version 2.5 CAD System
Manufacturer: *American Small Business Computers, Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

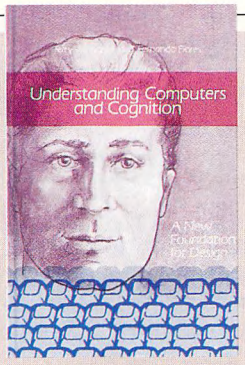
Generic CADD 3.0
Manufacturer: *Generic Software, Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

HyperAccess Telecommunications System
Manufacturer: *Hilgraeve, Inc.*
Computers: *IBM and compatibles; special version for Zenith Z-series.*

Autumn Mirage Business Graphics
Manufacturer: *Zenographics, Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Understanding Computers and Cognition: A New Foundation for Design

By Terry Winograd and Fernando Flores
Ablex Publishing Co., 1986
207 pages, $24.95 (hardcover)
Reviewed by Robert Sanchez



Challenging tradition: *Winograd, Flores*

After reading *Understanding Computers and Cognition*, you may never look at computers in the same way again. To challenge traditional thinking about computers, the book presents questions not widely asked: What are the fundamental differences between computers and the human brain? Can computers do anything they were not specifically programmed to do? Can computers be intelligent? The answers likely are not expected.

This book is addressed to "everyone (expert and layperson) who has a serious interest in understanding what computers are and how they fit into our lives." Authors Winograd and Flores help the reader to understand the limitations of computers and the importance of asking the right questions about computer technology.

The book is divided into three parts: Theoretical Background; Computation, Thought, and Language; and Design. The first part seems tedious at times; it is not always clear how the authors' musings on rationalism and "thrownness" tie into understanding computers. But be patient. They seek to redirect thinking with a "critique of the current mythology of artificial intelligence and cognitive thinking," and the first part lays the groundwork for such a redirection.

Parts II and III seem more relevant to computing, although you may find yourself re-reading sections to understand them. Typical is the discussion of the "phenomenon of blindness," which considers the limitations people necessarily put on themselves when they analyze situations in terms of their objects and properties. The authors claim that programmers inevitably impose cultural and other biases upon their computer programs.

The book is particularly interesting when it critiques the predictions of others—for example, quoting from a Japanese speech predicting that fifth-generation computers will be able to "understand our thoughts and give us suitable answers." The authors claim that such thinking is naive and that computers will never be able to "understand" in the human sense.

In general, the book is clearly written, despite the occasional use of such obscure words as "historicity" and "veridical." The authors usually use plain English, and they do a good job of explaining difficult concepts.

The general public and the high-technology community seem to hold great expectations for the future of computers. Winograd's and Flores' book may demolish some of those expectations and force a re-examination of the rest.

Robert Sanchez is a technical writer living in North Billerica, Mass.

Discovering accessories: *Under the Apple*

Under the Apple: Discover the Power of Macintosh Desk Accessories

By Howard Bornstein
Info Books, 1987
250 pages, $15.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by James Moran

Under the Apple explores the concept, selection and use of desk accessories. Within its pages are critical reviews of more than 100 such programs and information on how to evaluate and use them.

Bornstein has grouped desk accessories into 10 categories: word processing, graphics, management, calculators, communications, general utilities, disk utilities, programmer's utilities, security and games. Programs can be readily located even though many are varied enough to belong in more than one category. Each is slotted into the category best fitting its primary function; however, all subsidiary functions are thoroughly documented.

Each reviewed accessory is individually considered. There are no comparative ratings. However, so that readers can do their own comparisons, each product is evaluated in a standardized, six section format.

The first section briefly describes the function and purpose of the accessory. The second describes the components and indicates if special windows or new menus are added. Many of the evaluations contain illustrations of special screen displays.

The third and fourth sections describe operating considerations, such as how the product works and the special features that make it useful. Conversely, a fifth section describes what the author considers to be limitations of the software. Here you'll find out about operating constraints, quirks and bugs.

The final section describes the product type (commercial, freeware, shareware) and lists the author, publisher and price. Where the information was available, the author included the size of the software and the minimum requirements to use it.

The author's credentials (he's an Apple certified developer, a reviewer and writer) are apparent throughout the book. The reviews are interesting and show an appreciation for the uncertainty many users face when buying software. With more than 100 reviews available, potential buyers of Mac desk accessories can make an intelligent evaluation of desk accessories and, perhaps, save money in the process.

James Moran is vice president of Programming Service Corp., a Midwestern consulting and research firm. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.

Required reading: *dBase III Plus*

dBase III Plus: The Complete Reference

By Joseph-David Carrabis
Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 1987
745 pages, $22.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Darrow Kirkpatrick

Any dedicated programmer can attest to the fact that reference books sprout like weeds around the keyboard during a hot programming project. DBase users, who quickly become dBase programmers, are not free from this problem. Even obsessively neat users quickly find their desks buried under tutorials, programming manuals, language references and code fragments from past programs.

What if one complete reference book could replace that unsightly heap of documentation? Joseph-David Carrabis has tried to create such a book with his hefty *dBase III Plus: The Complete Reference*.

As Carrabis admits, you could just as easily turn to the original dBase documentation for the definition of a command or function. He hopes, however, that his book is unique in serving also as a guide to proper dBase programming. He says that his book is for those who want examples of how dBase commands and functions are used within program code—something other dBase books and the original documentation do not always show.

Carrabis begins by discussing the many file types dBase uses to do its work: database, screen format, report format, memory variable, index and program as well as the more advanced files. He gives clear, practical explanations of how each file is created and used.

The essential part of *dBase III Plus: The Complete Reference* is its dictionary-like entries for the many dBase commands and functions. The book is organized into more than 20 chapters with such titles as "File Manipulation Commands," "Data Location Commands" and "Database Functions." Newcomers might prefer this organization by "purpose," but I find an alphabetical approach handier for a reference book.

The entries within each chapter are made up of standard subsections: "syntax," "use" and "advanced use." The "syntax" section gives all possible variations on the format of a command. The "use" section discusses the applications for the command.

It is here that the depth of Carrabis' experience with dBase III Plus shows. His notes on how to use the various elements of dBase for practical work are the most valuable part of the book, and his explanations of the theory behind dBase are clear. In the "advanced use" section, Carrabis presents sample screen displays and program code, though he does not present code to illustrate every command in the book.

As Carrabis admits, to use his book effectively you must know what you want to do with dBase. If you are an experienced programmer looking for one reference book to sit on your desk, this could be it. However, while Carrabis' writing is affable, it tends to be uneven and rambling. Also, the code examples are usually too limited for readers to put to general use in their programs. The book would probably serve best as a secondary reference, when the dBase III Plus documentation doesn't shed enough light on a programming problem.

Darrow Kirkpatrick is an independent computer consultant and technical writer living in New Paltz, N.Y.

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CD ROM Volume 2: Optical Publishing

Edited by Suzanne Ropiequet with John Einberger and Bill Zoellick
Microsoft Press, 1987
384 pages, $22.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by James Moran

CD ROM 2: Optical Publishing is a companion book to *CD ROM: The New Papyrus*, a collection of writings on the current and future states of CD-ROM technology. *CD ROM 2* is primarily a collection of writings to be used as a handbook for publishing on optical disks.

The 18 writers, editors, publishers, researchers and software developers who contributed to *CD ROM 2* are actively involved in optical publishing. All are certified experts and more than a few have tracked the CD-ROM industry from its infancy. All that expertise has been digested into 16 chapters examining the concepts and problems encountered in this new method of publishing.

CD ROM 2 is divided into six parts beginning with an examination of the CD-ROM environment. In an overview of the hardware and software environment, workstations that read and display CD-ROM information are explored and the physical makeup of CD-ROM is explained.

Section II examines text preparation and retrieval and describes the problems publishers face in using the new technology. The emphasis is on explaining electronic retrieval and indexing for documents and databases.

In Section III, the aspects of image and sound preparation are considered. Since both video and sound can be carried on CD-ROM, techniques for processing images and digital audio are studied. A particularly enlightening chapter explains how sound and video are integrated into CD products.

Disc production is discussed in three chapters that examine how the publisher becomes involved in the manufacturing process. From disc origination to premastering and mastering, the contributors explain why and how data files are prepared for eventual replication into a disc image.

In one chapter, Einberger and Zoellick explain the High Sierra Group Proposal. Although not yet a true standard, the HSG Proposal is the common format used by firms until an official format emerges.

Like any intellectual work, optical publishing demands that the rights of authors and publishers be protected. The fifth section of the book examines ways in which data is created and distributed while guaranteeing proper compensation for the creators. Also discussed are ways in which CD may be updated and strategies to consider when choosing an update method.

To pull all this information together the last chapters in the book present two case studies. In all, *CD ROM 2* is a comprehensive overview of CD-ROM publishing. The various contributors were well-chosen and their writings and musings are understandable and perceptive. Two excellent appendixes include a copious glossary of optical publishing terms. Whether you're neophyte or expert, this is a book worth reading.

James Moran is a free-lance writer and frequent contributor to Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.*

Electronic Edition Book Reviews

The following book reviews are available this month in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-240 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

Microsoft Word Style Sheets, *by Peter Rinearson and JoAnne Woodcock, Microsoft Press*

Atari ST User's Handbook, *by Gilbert Held, Weber Systems Inc.*

AppleWorks Made Easy (second edition), *by Carole Matthews, Osborne/McGraw-Hill*

Supercharging MS DOS, *by Van Wolverton, Microsoft Press*

The AmigaDOS Manual (second edition), *Bantam Computer Books*

The Microcomputer Marketplace

R.R. Bowker Co., 1987
1,115 pages, $95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Harry Green

If you could judge a book on size alone, *The Microcomputer Marketplace* would rank right up there with the telephone directory, but it isn't the sort of book you snuggle down with for a few evenings of reading. As a directory of the microcomputer industry, it more properly belongs on the reference shelves at the local library. The book contains 24 sections listing anything you want to know about who furnishes what for the personal computer industry. According to the introduction, listings are free of charge.

One large section, comprising more than one-fourth of the book, lists software publishers and manufacturers—4,179 of them. Company addresses are listed along with principal officers and such vital statistics as sales volume, number of employees and product line. This is followed by a systems index listing publishers of software for 71 different microcomputer systems.

The book is filled with indexes of different kinds. For example, companies are listed by the operating systems they support. Your listing might get lost under the MS-DOS category, but you can share several other listings with only one other company. The Business/Professional Applications Index is probably the most useful if you're searching for companies specializing in certain types of software. Distributors are listed by state, leading to the conclusion that the index, large as it is, is hardly exhaustive. Surely there is more than one Vermont company in the microcomputer-related industry. With only one company each, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, and West Virginia also look like the places to go to avoid competition.

The final third of the book is the "yellow pages" listing of all vendors in alphabetical order. Ahead of that are listings of consultants, component suppliers, associations, periodicals and even a calendar of meetings and exhibits. The latter bravely starts with January 1987, but the publication date was in May, which exposes the dated nature of this kind of subject matter. If you subscribe to annual revisions, however, you get a 5 percent discount.

The Microcomputer Marketplace is a valuable reference book, but it obviously isn't for every computer user. It is the sort of book most of us need so rarely that we could travel to the library to use it. Better yet, the book would be a lot more valuable if it could be accessed through CompuServe.

Harry Green is president of Pacific Netcom Inc., a Portland, Ore., firm that consults with businesses on using office automation and telecommunications to improve productivity. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

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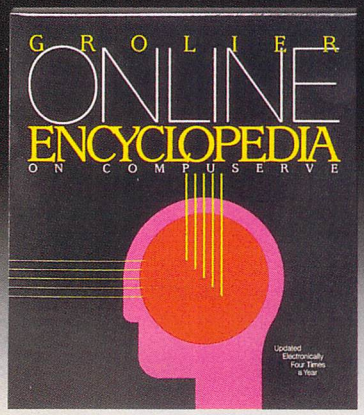

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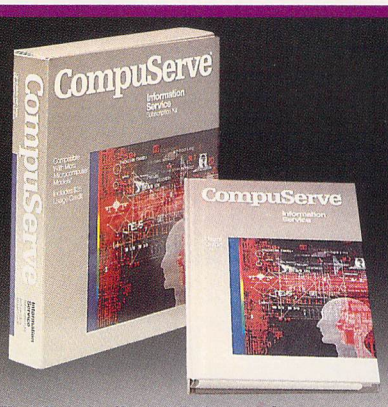

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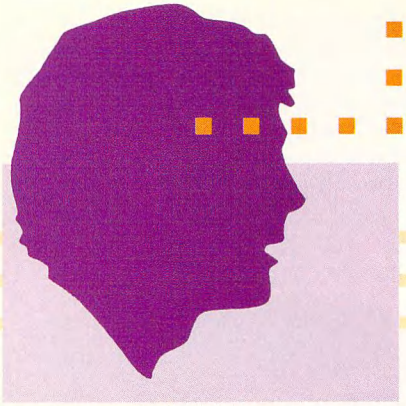

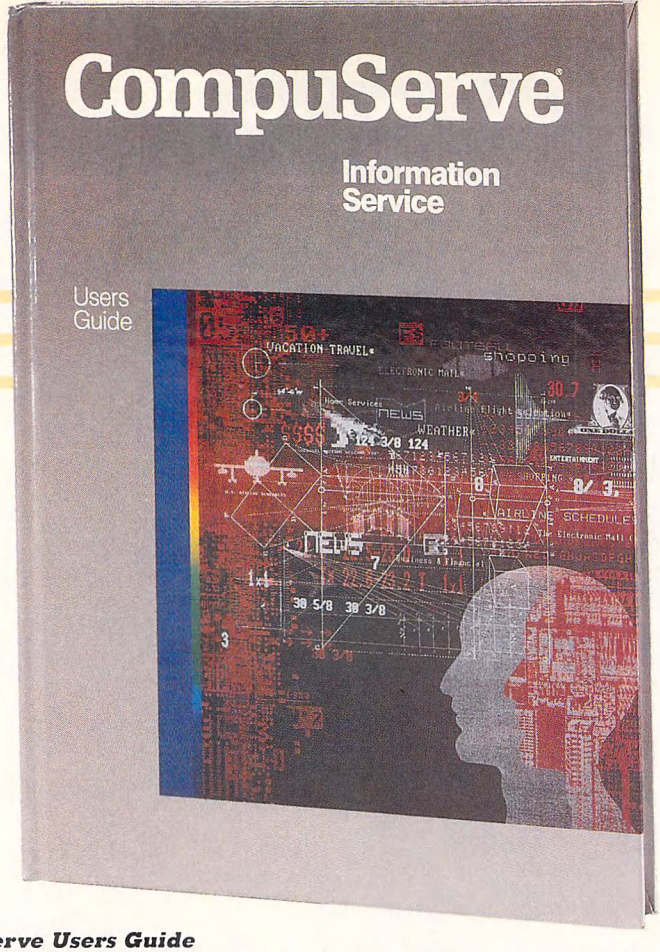

Back Issues of *Online Today* Magazine
Online Today magazine's back issues represent an archive of incisive articles tracking the evolution and impact of videotex and computer communication. Use a list of feature articles from back issues, provided online, to obtain volumes missing from your set, or to select issues of interest published before you became a subscriber.

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CompuServe Users Guide
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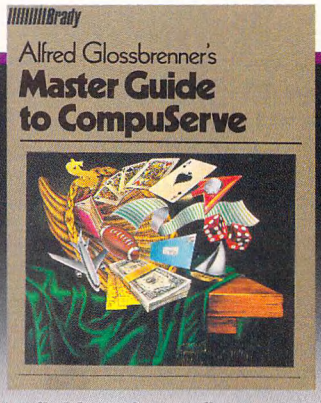

Master Guide to CompuServe
From Alfred Glossbrenner, the author of several online computing books, comes the *Master Guide to CompuServe*. This book is written for novice and advanced CompuServe users alike. According to the author, it not only tells you how to use the service, but gives you all the necessary tools to keep up with the constant expansion of the offerings on CompuServe. It's an invaluable resource for CompuServe users of all levels.

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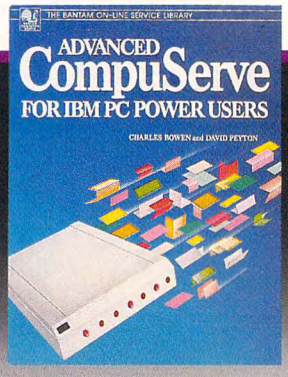

Advanced CompuServe for IBM Power Users
This newly published (4/87) book, by Charles Bowen and David Peyton, is written for the accomplished CompuServe user with an IBM PC or compatible. It deals with some of the finer points of CompuServe such as uploading and downloading non-commercial software to and from IBM-related Forums, archived and libraried files, communications programs and several other more advanced topics. A must for any IBM power user's library.

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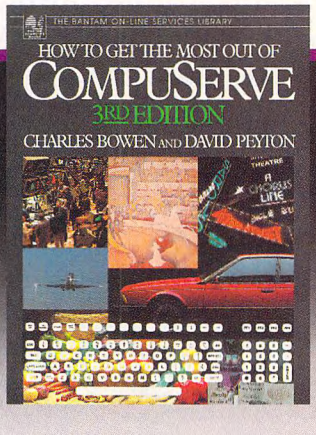

How To Get the Most Out Of CompuServe (Third Edition)
An earlier editions of this Bantam book, by Charles Bowen and David Peyton, earned acclaim from accomplished CompuServe users, novices and even non-subscribers for its step-by-step discussion of CompuServe's leading products. Included in the book is a $6 usage credit!

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VIDTEX Terminal Communications Software
No one links you to CompuServe like CompuServe. Whether you have an Apple®, Atari® or Commodore®, you'll get the best link-up with genuine CompuServe communications software. (Complete information about VIDTEX compatibility requirements is available online: GO VIDTEX) Only CompuServe gives you all of these features in a complete communications software package that includes:

- "instant" FREE software
- updates online
- error-free uploading and downloading on CompuServe
- high-resolution graphics
- automatic logon and menu
- navigation files
- programmable function keys
- full printer support (including "print screen")
- capture buffer
- adjustable communication settings
- cursor positioning
- support of Hayes-compatible modems
- ability to work with the Atari 800, 800 XL, 600 XL with 64 K, 1200 XL, 65 XE, 130 XE, the Apple II Family, Commodore 64, TRS-80 Model III and Color Computer.

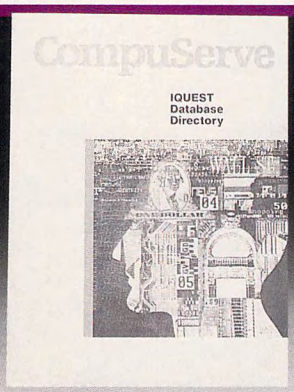
$39.95

Professional Connection 3
This powerful, all new software package for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and most compatibles, illustrates colorful financial charts, pictures and weather maps with NAPLPS and RLE graphics. It also dials the phone, completes your connection and takes you wherever you want to go online—with a few simple key strokes. PC3 also includes all of the following and more:

- 110-9600 baud support
- Remote Job Script Command Language
- terminal settings directory
- custom menus
- menu or command driven options

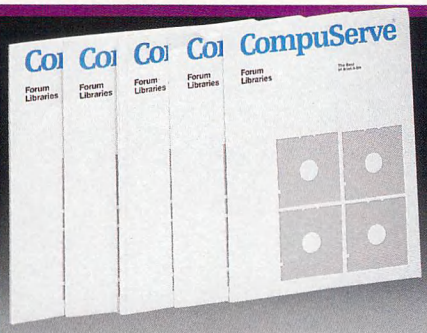
$49.95

NOTE: If you have purchased Professional Connection 2 between April 1, 1987 and October 1, 1987, you can go online and order a complete PC3 package for free (plus $2.50 shipping and handling). If you purchased PC2 any time prior to April, you can get the all new Professional Connection 3 for the modest price of $19.95 (plus $2.50 shipping and handling).



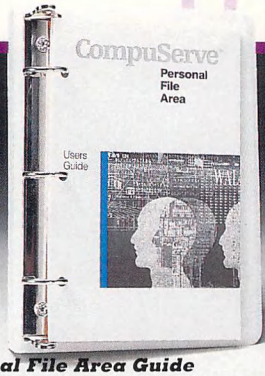
IQuest Database Directory
Use IQuest more efficiently and effectively with this guide published by CompuServe. It provides a description of each database and is broken down by subject for easy reference. Anyone who uses IQuest will find this a valuable tool to speed research and use connect time more efficiently.

$3.95



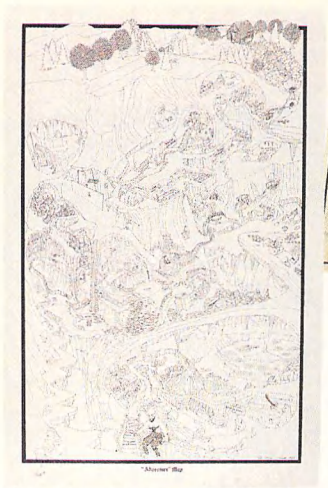
Forum Data Library Directories
These forum software guides present indexed descriptions of top offerings from leading personal computing forums. The *Best of Amiga, Tandy Model 100, Atari 8-Bit, Macintosh User Forums* and *IBMNET*, already in its second edition, catalog hundreds of powerful utility programs and standalone applications available for public access on CompuServe. They pay for themselves in connect time savings. Available while supplies last.

Reg. $9.95 **Save $1.45** **$8.50**



Personal File Area Guide
All subscribers receive 128K of storage in a personal file area. EasyPlex messages, Executive News Service clippings, files, "form" letters and more can be stored for 30 days without charge. File management programs, text editors, disk storage techniques, EasyPlex shortcuts and other topics are explained in this guide. Just what you need to use the storage area to its utmost potential. Includes: ICS, Terminal Parameter and EDIT Reference Cards. (Binders not included)

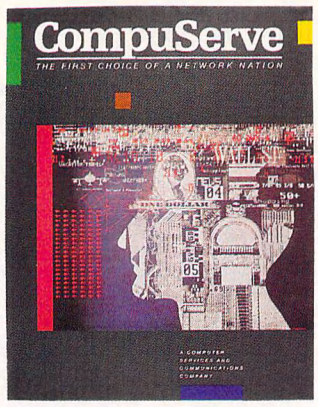
Reg. $10.95 **Save $3.45** **$7.50**



New Adventure (751 Point Game)
Reg. $4.95 **Save $3.00** **$1.95**

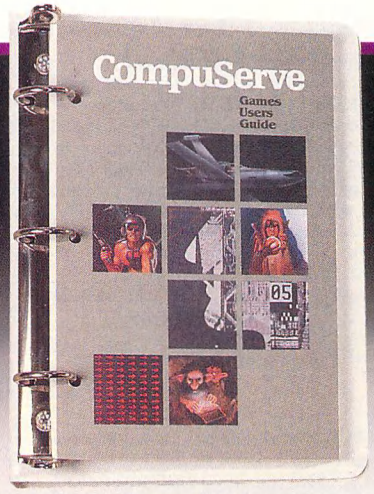
Original Adventure (350 Point Game)
Reg. $3.95 **Save $2.45** **$1.50**

Adventure Game Maps
Exciting adventure maps, drawn in outline so participants can color their maps to match their imaginations. Both illustrate pathways and pitfalls one encounters in the *Original Adventure* and *New Adventure* Games on CompuServe.



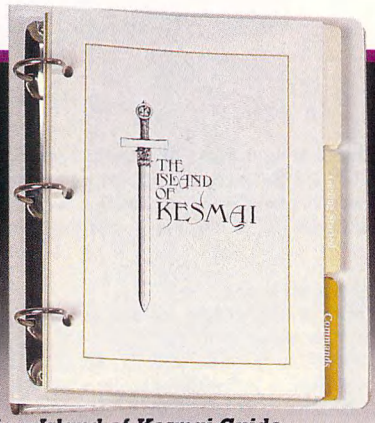
CompuServe: First Choice of a Network Nation Poster
World-renowned illustrator, Fred Otnes, produced the commissioned illustration that is the focal point for this full color, 23" x 30" poster. A perfect addition to a home computer alcove, den or office wall.

Reg. $4.95
Save $2.00
$2.95



CompuServe Games Guide
This manual of the CompuServe game universe offers descriptions of most game offerings, rules, playing suggestions and a section on getting the most out of the Gamers' Forum. Guide comes in a sturdy vinyl binder.

Reg. $17.45 **Save $2.50** **$14.95**



New Island of Kesmai Guide
One of CompuServe's leading adventure games, *Island of Kesmai*, is like no other online island you've ever visited. Prepare yourself with this comprehensive island atlas. Meet the inhabitants, learn their customs and social mores. You won't just bring the game's interactive features to greater light, you'll lead a longer life in your island role. Guide comes in a sturdy vinyl binder.

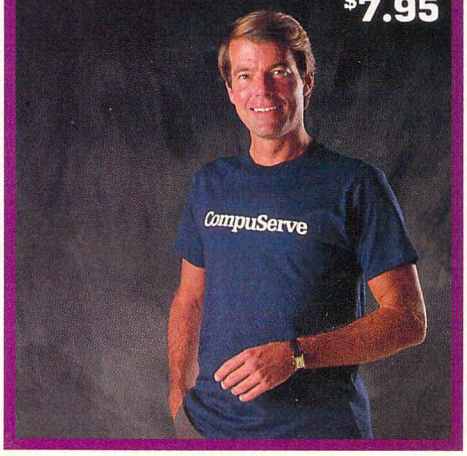
Reg. $19.00 **Save $2.50** **$16.50**

***MegaWars I* Package**
Real-life accessories for the fantasy gamer. This package includes a *MegaWars Briefing Guide* in a three-ring binder, along with a series of five *MegaWars* spacecraft blueprints and a galaxy map to enhance your *MegaWars I* play.

Reg. $16.95 **Save $2.00** **$14.95**

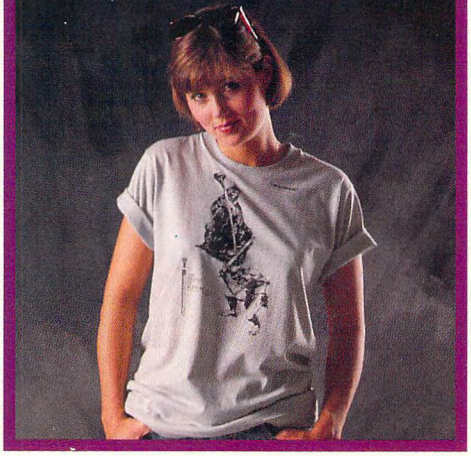
CompuServe Logo T-shirt
Announce your role as one of the leaders. Display your online allegiance to the nation's leading information service with this cotton/poly T-shirt silk-screened with the CompuServe logo. Choose from light blue, navy blue or red. Some children's sizes available.

$7.95



***Island of Kesmai* T-Shirt**
Make sure you look your best for your next visit to the island. An *Island of Kesmai* T-shirt is the ideal attire for encounters with island inhabitants of all sorts.

$7.95

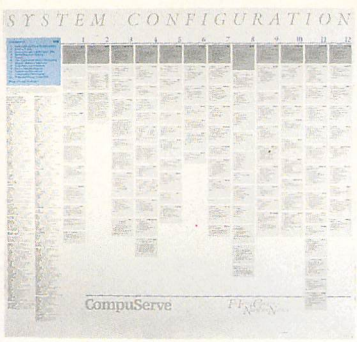


***BlackDragon* T-Shirt**
Cross the Labyrinth, slay the dragon and live? Announce your gaming success by sporting this black T-shirt with white *BlackDragon* illustration.

$7.95

Bull and Bear Poster
This very popular and highly-requested poster supporting the CompuServe financial products is making its debut in Fingershopping. Original art, as seen in CompuServe financial ads. A welcome addition to any office or den.

$3.50

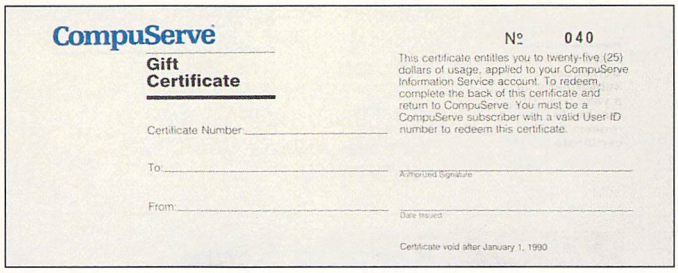


CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart
This 35" x 33" poster (7/87 version) depicts all screens appearing on the Top Menu and all screens accessible from those initial choices. Extremely helpful for navigating around the service.

$3.95

CompuServe Digital Desk Clock
Mounted within a clear lucite desk stand for high visibility, this contemporary timepiece is an attractive and useful addition to any computer workstation—home or office. It prominently displays the CompuServe logo and comes with a perpetual calendar in an adjacent window.

Reg. $10.95 **Save $4.45** **$6.50**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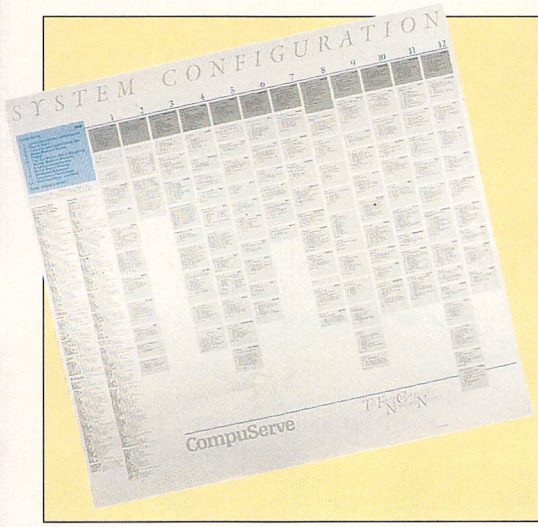
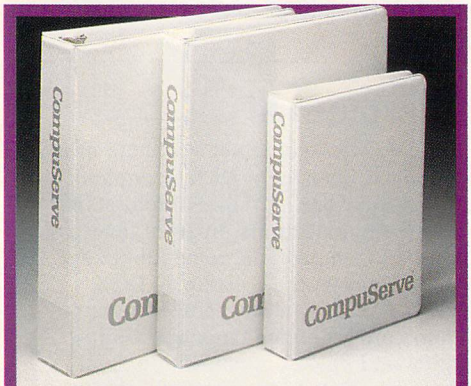


FREE!
With qualifying purchase of $25

CompuServe Information Service Systems Configuration Wall Chart
As a special incentive to place an online order during the Fingershopping Sale, any order over $25, placed between October 1 and November 30, will receive a revised (7/87 version) CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart FREE. The chart will be included automatically in qualifying orders, there is no need to enter an order for your bonus item. Detailed descriptions and prices for all products available for Fingershopping can be found online. Enter GO ORDER at any prompt.



CompuServe Three-ring Binders with Logo

1-1/2" spine, for 8-1/2" x 11" pages (vinyl)	2" spine, for 8-1/2" x11" pages (vinyl)	1" spine for 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" pages (vinyl)
$2.95	**$3.50**	**$2.50**

1-1/2" hardboard binder and slipcase for 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" pages (not shown; while supplies last)
Reg. $3.95 **Save $1.45** **$2.50**

To ensure delivery of items needed for the holiday gift-giving season, orders must be received before November 15, 1987.

Non-subscribers may order by calling 800/848-8199. In Ohio or Canada call 614/457-0802.

Based on the total price of your merchandise, postage and handling is automatically calculated according to the following scale and added to your total.

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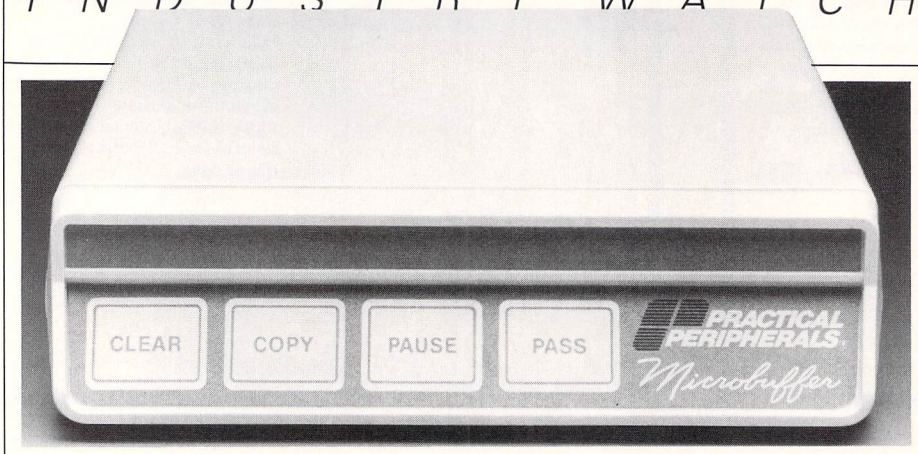


Sheer Practicality

Practical Peripherals has introduced the Practical Modem 2400 SA.

Retailing for $239, the modem is fully Hayes compatible and can store up to 10 telephone numbers for automatic dialing. Other features include automatic answer mode selection, echoplex, speaker volume, communications rate, guard tone selections and half- or full-duplex operation.

For information, contact Practical Peripherals, 31245 La Baya Dr., Westlake Village, CA 91362; 818/991-8200.

Selectory

Harris Information Services has introduced the *1987/88 Selectory of American Electronics, Computer and Computer Component Manufacturers.*

Available on diskette, the *Selectory* combines the most comprehensive and accurate database of these manufacturers with fast and powerful software. It provides access to more than 10,000 companies and more than 76,000 product listings. Retail price is $695.

For information, contact Harris Information Services, 2057 Aurora Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087; 800/321-9136 (nationwide) and 216/425-9000 (in Ohio).

Tutorial Disks

STN International has introduced the first two lessons in a series of personal computer tutorial disks for learning to use STN, a scientific and technical information network.

Titled *STN Mentor: STN Overview* and *STN Mentor: Introduction to CAS Online,* the disks guide learners through simulated online searches for answers to common research questions. Users can advance at their own speed through the lessons and choose the subject matter they wish to search. The disks operate on an IBM PC and compatibles.

For information, contact STN International, 2540 Olentangy River Rd., P.O. Box 02228, Columbus, OH 43202; 614/421-3600.

Keeping Score

Business Week magazine's Mutual Fund Scoreboard Diskette has been expanded to make it possible for investors and brokers with IBM or compatible computers to compare the performance of more than 600 equity mutual funds.

The diskette includes its own menu-driven data management program that makes it possible to select, rank, total, average and print information. All data is easily converted into Lotus 1-2-3 or ASCII files to work with other popular spreadsheets and word processors because the entire database and data management program resides in memory. An annual subscription (quarterly diskettes) is priced at $149.95 plus $4.50 shipping per quarter.

For information, contact *Business Week*, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, 36th Floor, New York, NY 10020; 800/445-9786.

Ride the Freeway

Freeway from Kortek is a communications program for the IBM PC and compatible computers.

Features of this easy-to-use program include pop-up menus, support of all major terminal types and protocols, storage of more than 20 parameters for hosts and an online page editor. Retail price is $89.95.

For information, contact Kortek Inc., 505 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301; 415/327-4555.

MicroPhone

MicroPhone from Software Ventures has joined the growing list of products supporting the Glue standard for sharing work between Macintosh users.

Purchasers of MicroPhone (version 1.1) will receive a specially enhanced version of Glue at no extra cost. MicroPhone is a commercial communications package designed especially for the Macintosh. Glue makes it possible for MicroPhone users to send reports they have created on the Macintosh to any other Macintosh user without worrying whether the recipient has a copy of the application used to create the report. Retail price is $55.

For information, contact Solutions Inc., Box 989, Montpelier, VT 05602; 802/229-0368.

Convertible Modem

OmniTel has introduced a 1200-baud modem card with state-of-the-art digital signal processing for the IBM PC Convertible.

Selling for $249, the LapCom 1200LI modem will allow PC Convertible users to transfer data over long-distances using standard telephone lines. It can access mainframes, minis, micros and PC networks. Features include full- or half-duplex operation, SC II 007 modem controller, Touch-Tone and rotary dial capabilities, auto or manual dialing and answering for unattended operation, built-in test modes and 40-character command buffer.

For information, contact OmniTel Inc., 5415 Randall Pl., Fremont, CA 94538; 415/490-2202.

Smartcom III

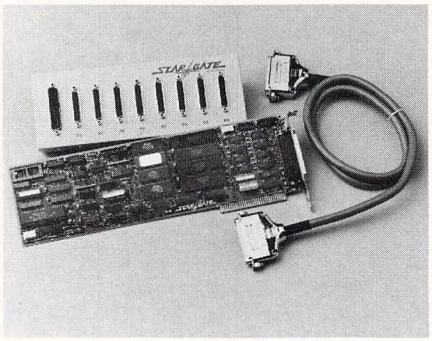
Hayes Microcomputer Products has introduced Smartcom III telecommunications software. A full-featured, stand-alone communications program for the IBM PC, Compaq and compatible computers, Smartcom III includes DOS level commands, a powerful communications programming language, online editing and dual communication session capability. Retail price is $249; upgrades from Smartcom II are priced according to the user's original purchase date.

For information, contact Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc., 705 Westech Dr., Norcross, GA 30092; 404/449-8791.

Advanced Communication Link

Star Gate Technologies has introduced Advanced Communication Link, an eight-channel serial card that offers IBM PC-AT and PC-XT users expanded capacity for communication.

The card employs its own high-speed CPU, dual port communication and advanced dual UARTs. As designed into the new card, these components free the host PC from numerous communication tasks and expand its capability to interact with printers, plotters, video displays, terminals, modems and other peripheral equipment.



For information, contact Star Gate Technologies Inc., 33800 Curtis Blvd., Suite 109, Eastlake, OH 44094; 216/951-5922.

Blast Off

Blast II from Communications Research Group is an easy-to-use VAX product allowing VAX users to access CompuServe from scripts/automatic dialing sequences.

The Blast II series provides PC-like features and functions as well as virtual terminal capabilities for VAX/VMS to dial out and interact with other computers on a peer-to-peer basis. Script files and macro commands allow the VAX user to quickly and easily set up repetitive routines or frequent transactions.

For information, contact Communications Research Group, 5615 Corporate Blvd., Third Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70808; 504/923-0888.

Samurai Mouse

Qualitas Trading Co. has introduced the Samurai Mouse for the IBM PC and compatible computers.

Equipped with a software driver that allows it to replace other industry standard mice, Samurai Mouse can be connected to any standard RS-232 serial port. It is compatible with a number of popular software programs and features two wrap-around mouse buttons for easier "clicking." Retail price is $79.95.

For information, contact Qualitas Trading Co., 5221 Central Ave., Suite 200, Richmond, CA 94804; 415/527-6526.

Laptop Modem

The MultiModem 212TL from Multi-Tech Systems is designed specifically for the Toshiba T1100 Plus and T3100 portable personal computers.

Features include 300 and 1200 baud, compatibility with the Bell 212A and Hayes AT standards and a plug-in card that fits the Toshiba expansion slot for dial-up communications. Retail price is $299.

For information, contact Multi-Tech Systems Inc., 82 Second Ave., S.E., New Brighton, MN 55112; 800/328-9717 or 612/631-3550.

Fastcomm 9600 Modem

Fastcomm Data Corp. has introduced the Fastcomm FDX 9600, a full-duplex, 9600-baud modem.

Retailing for $1,195, the modem provides multi-environment flexibility, supports popular communications software and is ideal for a mainframe, mini or personal computer. The FDX 9600 also operates on a 1200-baud channel. It is available as an external unit or in a FDC Rackmount model.

For information, contact Fastcomm Data Corp., 12347-E Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 22091; 703/620-3900.

EasyTalk

Megahertz Corp. has introduced EasyTalk EMS, a multi-function card for the T1100 Plus, Toshiba's popular laptop computer.

The product features 1MB of expanded memory and an internal, Hayes-compatible 1200/300 baud modem on a single card. The retail price is $899.95. Crosstalk communications software comes bundled with EasyTalk.

For information, contact Megahertz Corp., 2681 Parleys Way, Suite 2-102, Salt Lake City, UT 84109; 801/485-8857.

Diga!

Diga! from Aegis Development is a telecommunications program for the Amiga 1000 computer.

Retailing for $79.95, Diga! features customizable terminal emulations, XMODEM, CompuServe B Protocol, ASCII, Kermit and Doubletalk protocols, batch file transfers, true overscan, 10 programmable function keys, conditional programming with BASIC-like language, timed transfers and more.

For information, contact Aegis Development, 2115 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405; 213/392-9972.

Electronic Edition Product Announcements

The following new product announcements are available this month in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-250 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

Microsoft Chart, *comprehensive presentation graphics software for business and scientific applications for the IBM PC, compatibles and the IBM PS/2 series, Microsoft Corp.*

geoProgrammer, *full-featured application development software package for the Commodore 64, 64c and 128, Berkeley Softworks.*

Sprint, *a Lotus 1-2-3 add-in that significantly increases the speed of 1-2-3, Biologic Co.*

Letterip, *program that allows printing directly from a TRS-80 Model 100 laptop computer, Random Access.*

MacSQZ!, *a data compression program for Microsoft Excel for the Macintosh, Turner Hall Publishing.*

PC Mate, *subsystem that upgrades an IBM PC-XT to a PC-AT, HiTech Materials.*

Prime Time Personal, *time management software for the IBM PC and compatibles, Wiseware Inc.*

Lookup, *Macintosh desk accessory for finding the spelling of a single word, Working Software Inc.*

MaxiPlan, *power user's spreadsheet for the Amiga, Oxxi Inc.*

DataEdge, *database management system for the IBM PC, compatibles and Wang PCs, PC Manager Inc.*

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Turn Your PC/XT/AT Into Multi-User, On-Line System
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(Reviewed by PC Week on 5/19/87)
You can now place a database on goods and services on-line using your own PC, so your customers can dial in over phone lines to access information, leave messages, and make purchases via modem. InfoHost, which can support as many as eight simultaneous modem interfaces, features a customizable relational database that can be adapted to the needs of your business.
A-Comm Electronics, Inc.
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Share emotions, get support, grow!
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Be a Lotto Millionaire!
New! Lotto Picker™ Plus V2.0 stores winning Lotto 6, Keno, & Pick 3/4 numbers & uses statistical analysis to give you the winning edge! All U.S. & Can. games included. V2.0 features speed boosts up to 70%, a database editor, and much more. Never Obsolete—Pays for itself! For IBM, C64/128 $34.95 (+4.55 sh). Ridge, 170 Broadway, #201OL, New York, NY 10038. 800/634-5463 ext. 293. Info 718/317-1961.

Guidelines to Requesting Information Through OLI

Online Inquiry

Online Inquiry is *Online Today*'s electronic version of the traditional reader inquiry card. To request additional information about products or services described in *Online Today*, simply access CompuServe and type GO OLI at any prompt.

CompuServe Page OLI-1
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS
ONLINE INQUIRY (OLI)

1. OLI Instructions
2. Online Today Display Ads
3. Print Edition Reviews
4. Shopper's Guide Mini-Ads

Display Ads

GO OLI-160. Inquiries to this section will be followed by a brief description of the *Online Today* ad. To request additional printed information, simply enter your name and address at the prompts. OLI will add your User ID number and electronically forward your request to the appropriate advertiser(s). The names, addresses and User ID numbers will also be forwarded via US Mail at the end of each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-160
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS/OLI

1. Nov. 1987 Advertisers
2. Oct. 1987 Advertisers
3. Sept. 1987 Advertisers

Editorial Articles/Reviews

At the end of each electronic version product review, you'll be asked if you wish to request further information through the Online Inquiry system. A "yes" response will let the system prompt you for your name, address and other information so that your request can be forwarded to the appropriate company. If you respond "no," the system will return you to the previous menu.

To request information about products reviewed in the print edition, go to page OLI-280 and select the appropriate listing, such as November Hardware Reviews. At the next menu, select the product you're interested in. If you answer "yes" at the question prompt, the OLI system will prompt you for the necessary information.

Requests to these sections will be stored and forwarded by traditional mail once each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-280
REVIEW LISTINGS/PRINT EDITION

1. Nov. Hardware Listings
2. Nov. Software Listings
3. Nov. New Product Listings

Shopper's Guide

GO OLI-70 to get information about *Online Today*'s mini-ad program.

To request information from Shopper's Guide advertisers, follow the instructions outlined in each ad.

CompuServe Page OLI-70
SHOPPER'S GUIDE

1. About Shopper's Guide
2. Rates and Information

***Note:** Additional requests during the same session will not require you to re-enter your name and address.

CAPITAL AVAILABLE

$1,000,000
Minimum

Will assist with financial plan. For information call Mr. ADAMS at 714/964-2386

Westex

GO OLI or circle 26 on the Reader Service Form.

ATTENTION: SPORTS JUNKIES!

At Last
COMPUTER SPORTS WORLD
a computerized database with over 4200 files of
UP TO THE MINUTE
sports and horse racing information including
FANTASY FOOTBALL STATS.
At your fingertips and available
24 hours, 7 days a week!

CALL NOW AND SPEAK TO A REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR DEMONSTRATION ACCOUNT NUMBER AND PASSWORD.

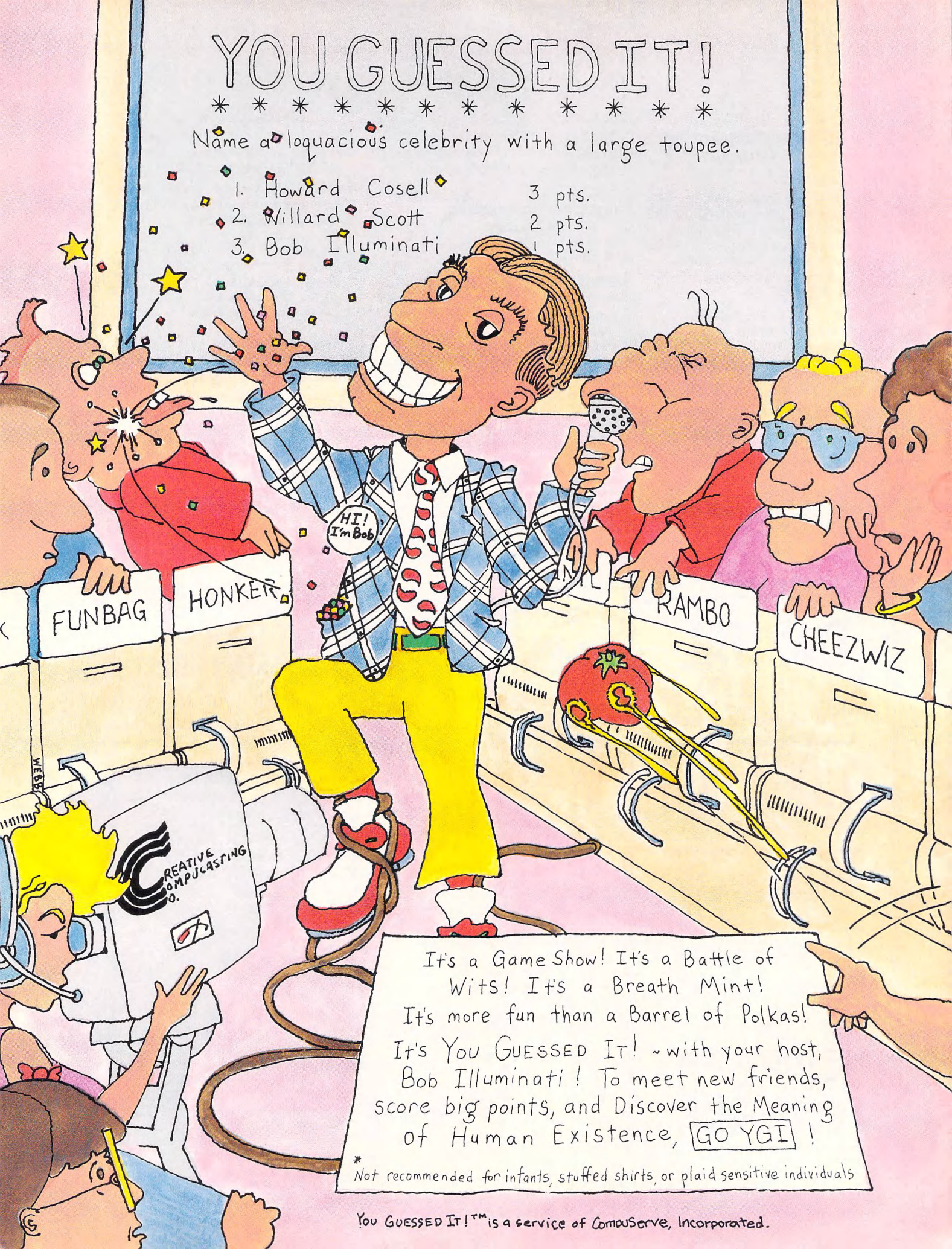
1-800-321-5562
In Nevada Call 702-294-0191

We're on the Line.
CSW
COMPUTER SPORTS WORLD

GO CSW-FOR A SAMPLE OF THE SERVICES COMPUTER SPORTS WORLD PROVIDES.

A Service of The Chronicle Publishing Company, San Francisco
1005 Elm Street, Boulder City, Nevada 89005

GO OLI or circle 27 on the Reader Service Form.


YOU GUESSED IT!
* * * * * * * * * * * * *
Name a loquacious celebrity with a large toupee.
1. Howard Cosell 3 pts.
2. Willard Scott 2 pts.
3. Bob Illuminati 1 pts.
HI! I'm Bob
FUNBAG
HONKER
RAMBO
CHEEZWIZ
CREATIVE COMPUCASTING CO.
It's a Game Show! It's a Battle of Wits! It's a Breath Mint! It's more fun than a Barrel of Polkas! It's You Guessed It! ~with your host, Bob Illuminati! To meet new friends, score big points, and Discover the Meaning of Human Existence, GO YGI !
* Not recommended for infants, stuffed shirts, or plaid sensitive individuals
You Guessed It!™ is a service of CompuServe, Incorporated.

INFORMATION

The advertisers and manufacturers of the products appearing in Online Today *will be pleased to send additional information about their products or services—at no cost to you. Make your selection by circling the advertiser or product by number on the form below. Fill in the requested information and mail to:* Online Today, *Reader Service Management Dept., P.O. Box 376, Dalton, MA 01227-0376.* Online Today *will see that your requests are forwarded promptly. You may get a faster response by using the Online Inquiry service system. Simply enter GO OLI at any prompt on the CompuServe system and follow the OLI prompts. Your request will be forwarded.*

Inquiry Number	Advertiser/Product	Page Number
17	Abracadata LTD	60
	A-Comm	76
	Aegis Development	75
3	American Express	3
11	Autovision	52
	Business Week	74
2	CACI/Instant Demographics	1
16	CACI/Instant Demographics	59
	Clinical Communications	76
	Coffee Emporium	76
24	Communication Electronics	51
	Communications Research	75
10	CompuStore	11
	Computer Information	76
27	Computer Sports World	77
	Employers' Jobnet	76
17	Fastcom Data Corp.	75
22	Good Software Corp.	64
14	Grolier	57
	Harris Information Services	74
6	Hayes	8
	Inside*Outside	76
	Kortek Inc.	74
15	Logitech	58
8	Max Ule	32
	Megahertz Corp.	75
23	Micro-Systems Software	65
	Multi-Tech Systems Inc.	75
7	National E-Mail Registry	31
4	NewsNet	5
29	Official Airline Guides	Cover 4
	OmniTel Inc.	74
12	Online Store	53
21	PaperChase	63
	Practical Peripherals	74
	Protosoft	76
	Qualitas Trading Co.	75
25	Quick & Reilly	67
13	Saba Technologies	56
	Software Exchange	76
5	Solutions Inc.	6
	Star Gate Technologies Inc.	75
	STN International	74
28	Tandy	Cover 3
18	Transend Corp.	61
9	Unified Management	49
1	Universal Data Systems	Cover 2
26	Westex	77
20	WordTech Systems	62

READER INQUIRY

For free information on products or services in this issue of *Online Today*, fill in your name, address, ZIP code and phone number. Then circle the number that corresponds to the number of the advertisement or article in which you are interested.

CompuServe subscribers can request information electronically by entering GO OLI at any prompt.

(Please print or type)

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Business Phone _____

Mail to: Online Today, Reader Service Management Dept., P.O. Box 376, Dalton, MA 01227-0376.

Circle inquiry number from this issue only

1	21	41	61	81
2	22	42	62	82
3	23	43	63	83
4	24	44	64	84
5	25	45	65	85
6	26	46	66	86
7	27	47	67	87
8	28	48	68	88
9	29	49	69	89
10	30	50	70	90
11	31	51	71	91
12	32	52	72	92
13	33	53	73	93
14	34	54	74	94
15	35	55	75	95
16	36	56	76	96
17	37	57	77	97
18	38	58	78	98
19	39	59	79	99
20	40	60	80	100

November issue, not valid after February 1988.

OLT's Electronic Edition Staff Covers the Online Community

The happiest memories of my newspaper days are of when I was city editor of an afternoon daily. The day started early—before dawn I was in the office reading the competing paper, checking the wire services and making assignments for our small staff of reporters.

It was chaotic work, with deadlines staring us in the face before we even gulped down our coffee. More than once a harried reporter or editor groaned, "Gee, I can't wait to see how we do *this* ..." Nonetheless, it was very satisfying at 2 in the afternoon to hold in our hands the latest of our little daily miracles.

That paper fell on hard times before the beginning of this decade. Like so many others, our town and its economy could no longer support two newspapers. The smaller afternoon paper was the vulnerable one, so it folded, taking with it a kind of fast-paced daily news-gathering that I thought I'd never get to see again. I surely didn't expect it to come back to life through a new-fashioned medium such as CompuServe.

However, for the last few years, I've been starting my days at dawn again, checking news wires and chatting with other editors and writers at work on a different kind of afternoon daily: the electronic edition of this magazine.

Every day—seven days a week—we put out a publication that focuses generally on the news of the computer world, more specifically on subjects of interest to modem users and most specifically on what's happening around CompuServe, making it a kind of local paper for a community without physical boundaries.

There are differences, of course, between the electronic *Online Today* and the printed newspaper I used to help run. For one thing, my colleagues and I hardly ever see each other. Most of the editors are in Columbus, Ohio, at CompuServe headquarters. The morning editor, Kacy Cook, is a telecommuter in Columbus. I sit several hundred miles away in Huntington, W.Va. John Edwards and Dan Janal are in New York; Cathryn Conroy and Scott Orr are in Washington; Jim Moran is in Chicago. Other contributors check in from Arizona, Florida, San Francisco and elsewhere. Ben Knox, another regular contributor, is even in another country—working out of London.

On the other hand, I find I "talk" more frequently with my electronic associates. At my newspaper, days might have passed between conversations with some of the people I worked with. However, in this global news room, I chat with many of the contributors several times a day through electronic mail.

The free-lancers with E-OLT produce several kinds of reports you might be interested in.

Breaking news from the computer industry is contained in the "Monitor" section, which is updated several times a day. The first stories appear by 9 a.m. EST each day. On weekdays, more stories are added by 2 p.m., and the final update occurs by 6 p.m. You can see a menu of our daily stories by typing GO OLT-90 at any prompt.

We also keep online a backlog of the previous six days of computer news. To see that, type GO OLT-20. Some of the most important reports, particularly continuing stories, are kept in our Special Reports section (GO OLT-2000).

Another major area of E-OLT is "CompuServe Update" (GO OLT-50), full of stories of events on the system, including "Community News," forum conference schedules, and "What's New." This is the place to come for news from around the CompuServe neighborhood, such as who said what at a recent real-time conference in a particular forum.

The publication also carries some features offered by no other kind of publication:

- John Edwards' sassy "Behind the Screens" column (GO OLT-130) provides regular comment and inside stories from the industry, often told with tongue firmly in cheek.
- Dave Peyton's "Uploads" column, summarizing some of the top new entries in the forum data libraries, has quickly become one of the most popular features in the publication. A compiled version of his columns runs each month here in the print edition, but those who can't wait for that know they can see the latest column online every two weeks. Dave submits an "Uploads" on the 1st and 15th of each month for the electronic edition. To take a look at it, type GO OLT-3700.
- Ernie Mau heads OLT's staff of free-lance software and hardware reviewers. Some of their reports appear in these pages; even more are provided in the electronic edition. Type GO OLT-200 for a menu of reviews. Also there are book reviews edited by Cathryn Conroy.

In addition, E-OLT provides letters to the editor, facilities for you to write letters to us, a weekly calendar of computer-related events around the country, lists of advertisers and how to reach them, online ordering, various columns on computer subjects and more.

To view the publication from the top, type GO OLT at any CompuServe prompt. This will take you to our "page one." Usually this identifies top stories of the day from the "Monitor" section along with their direct address page numbers. You can reach any of these stories either through the "Monitor" menu (GO OLT-90) or directly by typing GO followed by the story's page number. (Note, too, that once inside the publication, you can drop the "OLT" part from your command. For example, after you've typed GO OLT once, you then can type "GO 102" and the system will assume you mean "GO OLT-102.")

Pressing the Return key at the page one display will take you to the main menu of the section (GO ONLINE is the direct address for this menu). From here, the publication branches to "Monitor," "CompuServe Update," columns, legislative database, reviews and advertisers.

We think of E-OLT as your publication and you're invited to communicate with us about what you'd like to see in it. From several different menus in the feature, you have options for writing letters to the editor. In addition, you can write EasyPlex directly to the individual editors. For a list of their names and User ID numbers, type GO OLT-356.

Charles Bowen, a contributing editor of Online Today, *co-authored* How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* CompuServe for IBM Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411.*

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YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!

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FIND THE BEST FLIGHTS FOR YOUR NEEDS.
MOVE AHEAD ONE SPACE.

START HERE

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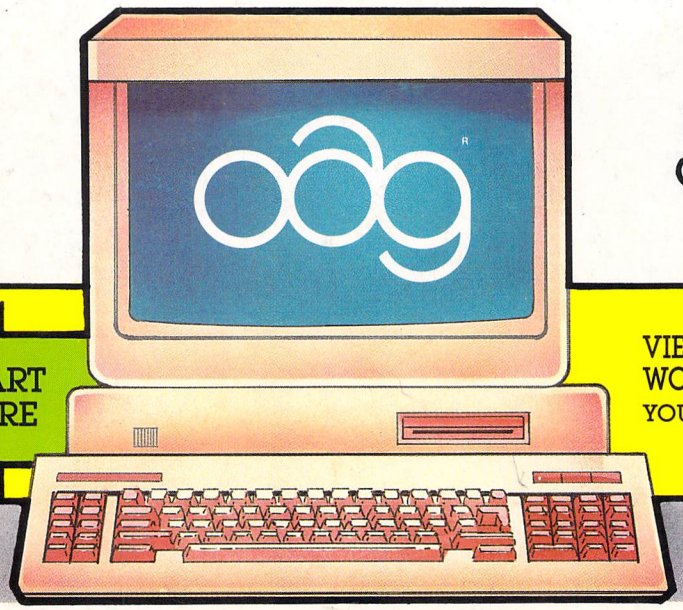

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